NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE GUARDIAN AND PUNCH NEWSPAPER BETWEEN JANUARY TO JUNE 2019

BY

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NSU/PGD/MCM/0031/18/19

PGD, MASS COMMUNICATION

MAY, 2021

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BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES, NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY KEFFI, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA (PGD) IN MASS COMMUNICATION

DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION,
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE,
NASARAWA STATE UNIVERSITY, KEFFI NIGERIA.

MAY, 2021

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this project has been written by me and it is a report of my research work. It has not been presented in any previous application for Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication. All quotations are indicated and sources of information specifically acknowledged by means of references.



TAKIM B. CORDELIA
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31-05-2021
Date

CERTIFICATION

The project "Newspaper Coverage of Women's Health and Reproductive Rights: A Comparative Analysis of the Guardian and Punch Newspaper Between January to June 2019" meets the regulations governing the award of Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication of the Postgraduate Studies, Nasarawa State University, Keffi and approved for its contribution to knowledge.

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DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to Almighty God and my Parents.

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Abstract

The international conference on population and Development (ICPD) have held several conference reinforcing the same message that health, particularly women's health and reproductive rights be guaranteed if grave injustice and denial of human rights are not to be committed. Still, Nigeria is faced with the problem of equality and so it affects all areas in women's lives. Therefore, this research work was set out to study the Newspaper coverage in protecting women's health and reproductive rights in Nigeria (a content analysis of the Guardian and Punch Newspapers. The two newspaper will be comparatively analysed to find out the one that gave adequate coverage to the above research topic through news articles, features, editorials, opinion columns, direction of stories e.t.c. whether favourable or unfavourable and prominence given by the papers during the period under study (January – June 2012). Content analysis and coding sheet were the major sources of data collection. However, the researcher content analysed (344) copies of the newspapers of Mondays to Fridays. From the analysis and the discussion of findings, the researcher concluded that to a large extent the press is an effective means of communicating the protection of women's health and reproductive rights to a large audience.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

The concept of reproductive health rights is very fundamental to the human society. Reproductive health and rights are found on the premise that all couples and individuals have the basic rights to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have information and means to do so in order to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.

Although, the concept of reproductive health and rights is relatively new in Nigeria. It entails a complete physical, mental, social well-being and not just the absence of disease or infirmity in the reproductive system, functions and processs. Reproductive right implies that people have the right to reproduce, regulate their fertility practice and enjoy sexual relationship.

In most African countries and indeed in Nigeria, the reality of women's right to enjoy highest standard of health is highly jeopardised. It is threatened by many legal, social, religious, political and cultural impediments. Most Nigerian woman, especially in the rural areas has suffered incessant violations of their health and reproductive rights. This unfortunately persists despite the fact that a number of laws as regard human rights have been put in place at the National, Regional and International levels targeting quality reproductive rights of women. (Ladan, 2006).

It is amazing and quite disheartening that thirty years of Beijing Conference in China and International Conference on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (ICPD), held in Cairo, Nigerian women, unlike their counterparts in other civilized countries of the world are still not in control of their sexual health and reproductive health rights. (Nwusa-Juda etal). High maternal deaths are still recorded. For instance in Lagos,

almost 60,000 women die every year from preventable pregnancy-related dieases, because Nigeria has grossly failed to implement and fully enforce its policies on maternal health (WHO Report). Besides, our legal system still fails to recognize that marital rape is a criminal offence despite the global trend towards criminalization of marital rape in over 50 countries of the world since 1997 Ifemeje (2011).

Generally, women's health and reproductive rights in all aspects are frequently violated. The Nigerian woman like her counterpart in other parts of African in every context social, cultural ecomomic and political are victims of politics of exclusion which oppresses them to the advantage of men, who readily exploit entrenched cultural, social, political prejudice to marginalize, discriminate and disempowered women.

The press plays a significant role in informing the public about health and medical issues (Moyer, 1995; Alexander, 2005; Thorson, 2006; cited in Rodney, 2010). It is obvious that the press performs necessary functions of providing information about new health dangers, disease outbreaks, domestic and international alerts, and healthy living. In order to learn about health issues, people look to numerous sources of news; newspapers, magazines, television, radio, the internet, friends, relatives or medical related report. (Rodney, 2010).

Women are often considered the health care givers in the family across the globe. (National Partnership for women and families, 2007) The multiple roles women play in the home profoundly influence the health of both their families and themselves (Wyn, Ojeda, Ranji, & Saiganicoff, 2003). Researchers and health professionals argue that women often neglect their own health for a number of reasons, usually associated

with their care-giving roles within the family. (Wyn, Ojeda, Ranji, & Saiganicoff, 2003).

Similarly, in the service of any development, media are agents of social change. The specific kind of change they are expected to accomplish is the transition to new customs and practices, and in some cases of different social relationship. For instance, Vescico Virginal Fistula (uncontrolled passage of Urine by young ladies), Fibroid, Genital Mutilation, Ovarian Cancer and Breast Cancer. These are some of the women health issues and their treatments constitute a great physical, psychosocial, and economic challenge. The hallmarks of the diseases in Africa are patients presenting themselves at an advanced stage for treatment in hospitals. Awareness and knowledge of the said cases vary among communities and population groups worldwide. While studies conducted to assess the knowledge of fibroid and breast cancer among women have revealed satisfactory levels in some places, (Wyn, e tal 2003) other reports especially from developing countries such as Nigeria have revealed inadequate knowledge and awareness of the diseases (Adebamowo Ajayi, 2003; Adebamowo & Ajayi, 2000).

The research (Press coverage of women health issues: A comparative analysis of Guardian and punch newspapers, June to august 2019) moves further to know whether the Punch and Guardian newspapers cover women health issues either positively or negatively. Examples of positive portrayal of women health issues include: the establishment of maternity health centers, adequate drugs, good family planning packages, etc. while the negative entails issues such as inadequate maternity health centers, inadequate drugs related to ante-natal, poor family planning packages, etc. The researchwork therefore is set out to carry out a critical analysis on the basis

to find out the various factors that have aggravated the persistent blatant violations of women's health and reproductive rights in both public and private spheres in Nigeria.

The press according to experts is an instrument of communication process especially where the masses have to be reached. The press which can be reffered also as the print Media comprises of Newapapers, Magazines, Journals, Books and Handbills.

The print Medium evolved with the Gutenberg press. Johnnes Gutenberg grew up in aregion and jewelers. It was there that he came up with the idea of a type in 15th century.

This invention saw the birth of the print Media where Newapaper is included. Since it's inception, it has remained a formidable communication tool for creating positive changes in the society (Watson and Hill 2003).

According to Obaze & Ogbiti (2004:32), citing Jefferson.

> "The press is the best instrument for enlightening the minds of man and improving him as a rational moral and social being were it left to me to describe whether we should have a government without newspaper or Newspaper without government, one should not hesitate to choose the latter as he said in a letter to Lord Carrington".

To further amplify the power of the press, Hynds (1972), describe the newspaper thus: "the newapaper is history in the making; geograpy brought close, science in action. Elaborately defined; "It is the story of the latest political shift in moscow, peking and Abuja. It record the newest arrival at local hospital, the graduation of a son or daughter, the joining of families throught marriages, the death of the well-known and unknown, incidents of people, missing persons air-craft crash-landing or being hijacked. It takes the reader inside the parliament, concert hall, the herbalist home, miracles and movies, of grief and joy, protects the weak, it motivates, inspires, interprets, builds, preserves, excites, satisfies and sometimes disappoints. The

newspaper archives yesterday, chronicles today and periscopes the possibilty of a brighter tomorrow for those who serve it. It is an historian, a reporter, an analyst and a communicator."

The press plays the role of an advocate between the rulers and the ruled in the struggle for power, poverty oppression, deceit, tyranny and other uncertainties of man (Ekunkuobo).

> "the press owes it a duty to the country(system) they serve to offer, inform, and construct the activities of the government (and other organization) based on facts and meaningful direction through information, education and opinon"

If the press (newspaper) are capable of all the above and also capable of exposing evil wherever it crops up in the society, why then is the desire of achieving egalitarian society, a society where everyone has equal righs and opportunity is still far fectched. This is why this research will be carried out using two National newspapers acclaimed to be unbiased to unravel the problems behind women's rights in Nigeria.

The Guardian

The *Guardian* newspaper is a population for this study. It is an independent daily newspaper published in Lagos, Nigeria by the Guardian Newspaper Limited. It was established in1983 by the entrepreneur Alex Ibru and Stanley Macebuh, a top journalist with the Daily time newspapers. The *Guardian* was poineer in introducing high quality journalism to Nigeria with thoughtful editoral content. The paper was first published on february 22,1982 as a weekly publication, appearing on Sundays. Then it started daily publication on 4th, 1983. The *Guardian* was described by The *New York Times* in 1988 as "Nigeria's most respected newspaper.

The Punch

The *Punch* newspaper is a population for subject matter of discourse. The *Punch* was founded by two friends , James Aboderin, an accountant and Sam Amuka, a columnist and editor at the daily times newspaper. Sam became the first Sunday punch editor. In november 1976, a few years after print of its Sunday edition, the duo started printing its trademark, daily newspaper. Both editions were designed to favour a friendlier apolitical approach to news reporting, conbining footages of social events with everyday political news. The study sustains itself by delving into board issues that interest a myriad of people. For two consecutive years (1998-1999) the research and marketing services (RMS) Lagos, published independent surveys in which *Punch* was rated as the most widely - read newspaper.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

It is quite glaring from the background of the study that Nigerian women are confronted by challenges strongly embedded in the society or system which have grossly impeded the full realization of their health and reproductive rights over the years. The press has been acclaimed to be the most effective means to curb social problems. The media often take women's health out of context while women are considered the decision-makers and healthcare givers in the family across the globe. (Ruzek, 1997). Similarly, the multiple roles women play in the home profoundly influence the health of both their families and themselves, as such, face a lot of challenges vis-a-vis increase in cases like Eclampsia, VVF (Vescico Virginal Fistula), Breast Cancer, Fibroid, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, Candidiasis, Dysmenorrea, Genital Mutilation, Cervical Cancer and Ovarian Cancer. However, the rate at which women are dying is of high increase in Nigeria. (NPHCDA, 2014) More than two decades in the war against maternal deaths, Nigeria still has one of the worst maternal

mortality statistics in the world, with the maternal mortality ratio of 545 per 100,000 births. Nigeria is second only to India in the global estimates of maternal death. India's population however is eight times that of Nigeria. (WHO, 2013).

The media in Nigeria have been accused over the years for neglecting developmental issues especially things related to women health, in terms of the prominence given to the issue, the extent of the coverage as well as the pattern (the angle of a report; positive or negative) and focus more on politics and advertisements. Again, indigenous newspapers have been accused for not preparing their readers for the challenges of the 21st century. (Salau, 2006) Thus, the challenges of 21st century are issues of development, including health related issues.

It is against this background, the study therefore examines in comparative nature, the media coverage of women health issues vis-a-vis the positive/negative angle of the report. This project will also tell justly whether people who use newspaper accept them as a major source of information and whether people comment on issues concerning women in Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are:

i. To find out the extent to which the *Guardian* and *Punch* Newspapers cover news stories regarding women's health and reproduction right in Nigeria.
ii. To ascertain the prominence given to stories on women's health and reproductive right in Nigeria.
iii. To determine how the issues relating to women's health and reproductive rights in Nigeria were framed by the two Newspapers.

iv. To find out the types of news frames that dominated the coverage by the two newspapers.

1.4 Research Questions

For the purpose of this research, the following questions were formulated:

i. To what extent did the *Guardian* and *Punch* Newspapers covers news stories on women's health and reproductive rights on the front page, inside page and back page?

ii. What is the level of prominence given to stories or women's health and reproduction right?

iii. How were the issues relating to women's health and reproductive rights framed by the two newspapers?

iv. What types of news frames dominated the coverage of women's health and reproductive rights by the two newspapers?

1.5 Scope of Study

The researcher assesses the newspaper coverage in protecting women's health and reproductive rights in Nigeria. The scope of the study covers the period of January to June 2019. The *Guardian* and the *Punch* newspapers will be used as the researcher's case study. The two newspaper will be content analyzed in a comparative manner to evaluate their various contributions through the reportage in protecting women's health and reproductive rights. As stated, January to June 2019 is the time frame, a period of six months. In the study, the direction of news, whether favourable aspect will reflect the tone and attitude of writer in a manner that gives support and the unfavourable aspect will tell whether the stories covered did not support the

protection of women's health and reproductive rights. The two newspaper content analyzed are the popuation.

1.6 Significance of the study

The study is significant in the following ways:

The study will be of immense important as it brings to light the problems of women's health and reproductive right in Nigeria. It will also reveal the roles of the press in protecting women's reproductive rights.

It will serve as a working frame for the restoration of Egalitarian society. The study will further provide possible ways to check the needs of women and also the solutions to their health and rights problems. Above all, the study will serve as a reference point for other researcher engaging in similar course of rescearch.

1.7 Operational Definition of Significant Terms

In order to totally understand and appreciate the point of view in this work, it becomes necessary to define some basic terms used.

i. **Newspaper:** it belongs to the class of the print media, it is a paper printed and distributed usually daily, weekly. Etc. to cover news, event and advocate options.
ii. **Health:** it is the condition of a persons body or mind .
iii. **Reproductive Rights:** It is human right recognized in the international legend. It is rights for couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their childeren and to have informaation on health matters
iv. **Coding Sheet**: it is a document that contains the summary of codes that have been assigned to facts, category and value. Etc.

v. **Maternal Death.** Death in pregnancy or child birth

vi. **Eclampsia (EC)** It is disorder seen in 6% of pregnant women. It is characterized by symptom complex of Hypertension (sustained rise in blood pressure), proteinurin (protein in urine) and edema (swelling of the body due to fluid accumulation).

vii. **Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID)** Is a common disorder characterized by pelvic pain, tendencies, fever and vaginal discharge resulting from infection.

viii. **Breast Cancer (BC)**: This is cancer of the breast and it is the most common cancer seen in women.

ix. **Genital Mutilation (GM)**: Female genital cutting; female circumcision.

x. **Vesico Vaginal Fistula (VVF)**: A female acquired diseases of fistula (open connection) mostly between the bladder and vagina caused by child birth, resulting to uncontrolled passage of urine.

xi. **Candidiasis (CD):** It is an infection of mucocutaneous membranes (skin) mostly warm and moist surface. When it affects the mouth it is called Oral thrush. When it affects the vagina it is called Vaginitis.

xii. **Dysmenorrea (DY)**: This is a pain in the pelvic experienced by 20-25% of menstruating women. It is also called menstrual pain.

xiii. **Cervical Cancer (CC)**: It is cancer of the cervix which may be caused by many factors such as multiple sexual partners, contraceptive pills and could also be inherited.

xiv. **Fibroid (FB)**: These are benign (non cancerous) tumors typically found in middle aged later reproductive years in female.

xv. Ovarian Cancer (OC): Cancer of the ovary.

xvi. **Diabetes Mellitus (DM):** This is a disease characterized by elevated sugar in the blood mostly seen in elderly people and pregnant women.

xvii. **Pneumonia (PN):** A respiratory track infection caused by many micro organisms mostly as a result of exposure to cold.

xviii. **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD)**: Infection mostly acquired through unprotected sex with and infected individual. Eg gonorrhea, HIV, syphilis, etc.

xix. **Hepatitis (HP)**: Infection of the liver mostly caused by virus. (Kumar, Abbas and Fausta,2006).

xx. **Women health issues**: For this study, we are referring to Eclampsia, VVF (Vescico Virginal Fistula), Breast Cancer, Fibroid, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease, Candidiasis, Dysmenorrea, Genital Mutilation, Cervical Cancer and Ovarian.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Preamble

This chapter seeks to review women health issues, other health issues and media and health coverage. Issues related to this field were reviewed with the aim of discussing the weaknesses and the strength in which the study seeks to fill. The theoretical frameworks chosen to serve as guide in the research were also analyzed.

2.2 Review Concepts

Here, two concepts are reviewed: the concept of newspaper coverage and the concept of women's health and reproductive rights.

2.2.1 The Concept of Newspaper Coverage

Cheyney (1992) describes newspaper as the book that offers the latest account on confined, state, regional, nationwide, and global affairs; the most up to date scrutiny and denigration on executive and legislative decision-making; the latest in song, theatre, television, and the fine arts and even feature and humorous items to make people express amusement. Newspapers are among the easiest to get to books accessible to the enormous mass of the populace; learned uneducated, juvenile and elderly, students, workforce, cream of the crop and peon in any community. Newspaper has been described in a broad sense by Academic American Encyclopaedia (1989, 171) "an unbound publication issued at regular intervals that seeks to inform, analyze, influence and entertain". Nine criteria for classifying papers have been provided by Hynds (1975). Some of these are time of publication,

frequency of publication, geography, purpose, method of production, intended audience, circulation, etc. Newspaper is a key element in shaping public opinion and influencing nationalized and global efforts in the direction of profitable growth and universal consideration (Bitner, 1989). Newspapers according to Babalola (2002) are the best open composed archives to the major fraction of individuals of diverse classes; youthful and aged, understudies and laborers, privileged and workers, educated and the uninformed. He similarly featured diverse direction by which they have been used as means for heartening education further. As a result of the way individuals amass often to converse on the content of newspapers, it inevitably advances necessary consideration, safeguarding of facts, vital thoughts and the quizzical of information source. The newspaper according to Mills (1981) is for sure frequently the main fountain of facts of the societal, monetary, and political advancement of a country, locale, or group, and thusly is a basic asset for scientists in the sociologies and humanities.

2.2.2 The Concept of Women's Health and Reproductive Rights

Different languages have been used to articulate sexual and reproductive rights. While the precise phrasing varies, there is the general agreement that sexual and reproductive rights includes the rights to health care services, the right to information and education, the right to make decisions, including decisions about marriage, family planning etc, the right to sexual enjoyment, the right to be free from violence and discrimination and rights to participation (Robertson, 1902).

The Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA 1995) and International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD 2005) document;

> "Certain human rights recognized in the national and international level and human right documents and other consensus documents including the basic rights of all couples of individuals to decide freely and to have the information, education and means to do so, the rights to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health: the right to make decision concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence."

According to (BPFA) and (ICDP), reproductive rights are rights to self-protection against sexually transmitted infections as HIV/AIDS, rights to family planning education, right to decide on the number and spacing of children: the right to adequate, accessible and affordable health services including information and communication programme to women.

On the other hand, they defined health as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not just the absence of disease or infirmity in matters to the reproductive systems, its functions and processes.

In terms of scope, reproductive health consist the following;

a. Safe motherhood, comprising of parental care, safe delivery, essential obstetrics care, parental and neonatal care and breastfeeding.
b. Family planning information and services;
c. Prevention and management of complications of abortion;
d. Elimination of harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), premature marriage and sexual violence against women etc.

2.2.3 Historical Development of Reproductive Health Rights

Reproductive rights are internationally grouped under the longest human rights, however the explicit international recognition of women's right to make choice in matters of their health and reproduction can be traced to the 1960s.

In 1968, the first international conference on human right held in Teheran, recognize that, "parents have a basic right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and a right to adequate education and information to do so."

This right was equally recognized the convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW), which was adopted in 1979 during the United Nation's Decade for women in 1992. The UN Conference on environment and development held in Rio de Tameiro reiterated in its agenda the right to decide on the spacing of one's children.

In 1993, a Vienna, Austrian government recognized the basis of equality between women and men. A woman's right to accessible and adequate health-care and the widest range of family planning services, as well as equal access to education at all levels.

In 1904, the (ICPD) held in Cairo, the ICPD programme of Action noted for the first time that "reproductive rights embrace certain human rights that are already in recognition in national laws, international human rights documents and other consensus documents." It further states that reproductive rights include the rights to highest standard of sexual and reproductive health.

In 1995, the Beijing Conference gave birth to two documents named; Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action, which reaffirmed the principles adopted

in Cairo. The Beijing platform not only reiterated the key language from ICPD programme of Action discussed above, it also went further to affirm women's right to control their sexuality and sexual relationships and decide upon these matters on an equal basis with men.

In 1995, the International Community expanded its recognition of reproductive rights under international law and further reaffirmed its commitment to the declaration made at the international conference. The Rome Treaty of 1998 recognized that rape and other forms of sexual violence are among serious crimes under international humanitarian law.

Finally in 1999, the international community met and formulated important strategies for promotion of reproductive rights. Nigeria was among the over 180 countries of the world which approved the historic programme of Action which was on of shoot of ICPD.

2.2.4 Legal Frameworks and Policies on Women' Health and Reproductive Right in Nigeria

a. 1999 Constitution

The 1999 Constitution of Nigeria has no specific provision on health and reproductive rights but it could be argued that some sections of the constitution have indirectly made allusion to the recognition of health and reproductive rights of its citizenry. (Ladan, 2006). For instance, section 17 of the constitution dealing with social objective of the Nigerian state, obligates government to direct its policies to ensure adequate medical and health facilities for all persons. Section 33 equally

recognizes the right to life while section 42 of the constitution further prohibits sexual discrimination.

This invariably means that women are entitle to good health and a decent environment on equal basis as men. Furthermore, section 37 and 39 respectively guarantees a woman's right to privacy and right to freedom of expression, i.e. to hold opinion and to receive and impact ideas without interference.

It was posited (Ladan, 2006), that if these sections of the Nigerian constitution are properly implemented, they would work to promote and protect women's health and reproductive rights in Nigeria.

b. Labour Act

The Nigerian Labour Act, section 54 makes provision for maternity leave, six weeks before six weeks after a would-be mother is to put to bed. This of course reflects the traditional sensitivity towards women's obstetric demands.

2.2.5 International Instruments Relevant to Women's Health and Reproductive Rights

Nigeria signed and ratified the following treaties and thereafter, she's legally bound to ensure the full implementation of their provisions.

a. Protocol on the rights of women in Africa.
b. Africa charter on Human and People's rights.
c. All charter on the rights and welfare of the child.
d. UN convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women.
e. UN Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

f. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

g. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

h. International Covenant on Political Rights (ICCPR)

2.2.6 Issues and Challenges faced by Women

Despite all the above mentioned laws guiding human rights and laws prohibiting violence against women, women continue to experience more challenges to their reproductive health and rights.

According to Chief Justice, Olopade (Ogun State), in *Guardian* March 12 (2011:7), "the rights of women enshrined in the Nigerian constitution are consistent with the ideals of humanism. But unfortunately, the rights and ideals have remained mere theoretical postulations without any practical bearings on the lives and condition of the Nigerian women. In practice, Nigeria society is replete with anti-humanist ideals."

Canvassing a positive change, Olopade observed "culturally", almost every occurrence in the society in attributed to women who are often humiliated and accused of being responsible for the death of their husbands and in some areas even their children. "**Educationally**" women constitute the largest disadvantaged group in the country. **"Traditionally"** women still face deep prejudices, profound discrimination and barriers to their advancement in the areas of education, politics, economics, nutrition, health-care, equality and even survival itself.

Olapade concluded "women have not also helped in the situation. There has never been a unified stand culturally.

In the same vein, in *Punch* December 3 (2010:42) Rtd Prof Oluwale Sophie noted, Nigerian women do not partake in issues directly relating to them and their children in the democratic process.

> "One aspect of political activism where Nigerian women have been found wanting is their failure to sponsor bills in the state and National assemblies."

She concluded by saying women must note their failures and restore their traditional commitment, their strategy of hope must be built on their ability to push to government the responsibility of legitimizing many rights of Nigeria women.

Majorly, as cited in Ladipo (2005:8), the following issues are challenges are faced by women.

a. Maternal Mortality and Morbidity
b. Induced Abortion
c. Human Immune Deficiency Virus
d. Harmful Practices
e. Cervical and Breast Canser

2.2.7 Maternal Mortality and Morbidity

Women are often involved in programme aimed at reducing high infant and child mortality, but hardly do they receive attention relating to their own health.

The maternal mortality ratio in Nigeria is one of the highest in the world 1,129/100,000 live births (IPAS, 2005). Even more disturbing is the recent study undertaken by the society of Gynecology and Obstetrics of Nigeria (SOGON) on the "Status of Emergency Obstetric Services in six states of Nigeria" each representing one of the six geo-political zones. The mean maternal mortality rate for Bornu is

(927), Enugu (783), Plateau (846), Cross River (2,977), Lagos (3,380) and Kano (7,523) per 100,000 live births (SOGON, 2004).

Also Joseph in *Guardian* January 10 (2010:52), "in 2008, 545 per 100,000 live births in the National Demographic health Survey (NDHS) was recorded. Some have argued and rightly so, is a representation of hospital captured." "Sadly, lifetime risk of a woman dying during pregnancy related complications in nigeria is estimated to be 1 in 18, a far cry from 1 in 4,500 in Sweden. Our women are dying because government has not been concern with the issue of maternal death as something worthy of proffering solution to. If politicians were dying, government would have long solved the problem. But average Nigeria women is not a politician, but a village, uneducated pauper, who does no know how to protest her deadly condition."

He concluded thus; Nigeria should rise up to stop this grim reaper among us. And all should rise in unity to defend our sisters and mothers by protecting them from this ugly scenario. Until then, we are as guilty as the government we accuse.

In another development, Chijiko in Guardian February 2 (2011), "the urgent need for quality and accessible health care delivery system has become a key component of global security, sustainable economic growth and good governance.

Hence, the survival of mother and child in Nigeria has become tougher, especially in rural areas."

The Society of Gynecology and Obstetrics in Nigeria (SOGON), on maternal mortality, call on Federal Government to make contraceptives a top priority. They stated;

> "Paying attention to contraceptives would assist Nigeria in reducing global maternal mortality ratio, which place the country second to India"

They argued that it would make women attain healthy reproductive living.

a. Induced Abortion

This is another major area in women's health issues. It is widely restored to despite restrictive abortion laws. Many women take to unsafe abortion at the hands of unqualified persons and risk their lives in the process. Unsafe abortion tend to occur much in under-developed countries, which leads to high mortality of women.

Globally, about 1.9million induced abortions are performed annually and approximately, 4.2million occur in Africa where 99% are performed illegally. (Ahman E. and Shah I. 2002).

In Nigeria, it is estimated that 610,000 induced abortion procedures are performed annually with an abortion ratio of 22 per 1000 women, one of the highest in the world.

b. Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV/AIDS)

There is an increased rate of HIV infections among women in many regions of Africa. Currently in Nigeria, HIV prevalence rate is 5.0% (FMOH, 2003). The disease is stretching the limits of an already weak health infrastructure and its impact is extending beyond the health sector to affect other development sector such as education, labour etc.

c. Cervical and Breast Cancer

Breast and Cervical cancer are the two commonest malignancies among Nigerian women, where they constitute about 50% of female cancers. Breast cancer in Nigeria accounts for 30% of all cancer related deaths in women while cancer of the cervix is

responsible for 60% of the genital cancer seen in tertiary hospitals (national Cancer Registry). The patients tends to present for consultation when the cancer is in advanced stages due partly to ignorance, poverty and limited access to secondary or tertiary health centers.

d. Harmful Practices

In Nigeria certain traditional practices continued to persist which infringe on the reproductive health and rights of women. The most common are female genital mutilation, otherwise known as circumcision, early forced marriage, polygamy, traumatic puberty, dehumanization of widowhood rites and prefences for male children etc.

2.2.8 Factors that impede full Attainment of the Highest Standard of Health and Reproductive Rights of Women in Nigeria

It is widely accepted that legal, political, social, economic and cultural factors have aggravated the incessant and unabated violation of the health and reproductive rights of women in Nigeria. Those factors shall be examined to note their linkage to the topic under discourse.

i. Legal Factors (Gender discriminatory Indigenous Statutory Law)

a. Restrictive Abortion Laws

Section 228 and 229 of the criminal code of Nigeria, criminalize abortion. Under the law, unlawful interference with pregnancy, no matter the stage, is perceived as a criminal offence except it is shown that such interference is for therapeutic reasons.

b. Legalized Marital Rape

Section 6 of the criminal code and section 282 of the Penal code have by implication expressly legalized spousal rape. The section provides that "unlawful carnal knowledge which takes place otherwise than between husband and wife." It follows therefore that Nigeria a man can never be found culpable of raping his wife.

c. Nigeria Strict Laws On Proof Of Rape

Section 138 of Nigeria Evidence Act, has made virtually impossible the conviction of rapists. The section seeks that the victim of rape must present proof beyond reasonable doubts of which it is impossible.

d. Few Specific Health And Reproductive Right Based Laws At National Level

Nigeria, as observe earlier is a signatory to virtually all international instrument on health and reproduction, but unfortunately, it is regrettable that Nigeria has not toed the line of many civilized countries of the world by enacting elaborate and comprehensive national health and reproductive rights based laws.

e. Non-Domestication By Nigeria Government Of International Instrument On Gender Rights And Health Rights

Nigeria government, though also a signatory to virtually all international instrument on gender rights and reproductive rights, have failed to domesticate same, as her municipal laws.

Educational Factor/Economic Factors

Male-child preference syndrome in Nigeria as embedded in Africa culture has majorly impeded the right of women in all aspects. Women's rights to education is often jeopardized and grossly violated. It is widely believed especially in the rural areas that the place of the woman is in the kitchen and therefore she is denied the right to legal education and married off early in life and therefore by implication, she is not only

economically disempowered but also exposed to early marriage which lead to ailments like; vesico vaginal fistula and Recto vaginal fistula mutilation (uncontrollable passage of urine).

2.3 Review of Related Literature

Communication is the bridge that brings together the different parts of a society or nation. The news media are charged with covering issues in a fair, balanced, and informative manner. However, there is constant tension between the social impact versus the economic health and well-being of society (Parrott, 1996). In news, because resources are scarce, decisions are made about what stories to cover and how they are presented. News framing refers to this selection and emphasis of certain aspects of issues. For magazines and other aspects of print media (for example, newspapers), these issues include elements of timeliness, which some critics argue are intended to increase profits rather than offer balance (Parrott & Condit, 1996).

There is no doubt that a lot have been written by different authorities in various field as psychology, mass communication, Sociology, etc. on women's health reproductive right in Nigeria. Therefore, this area of research focuses on the review of some relevant literature that will assist in understanding the historical background, the meaning and challenges of women's reproductive rights Nigeria.

Human beings have since time immemorial tended to misrepresent the biological different between men and woman. The God- given complementary different between men and women has often been distorted and given the shape of gender inequality, superiority and inferiority complex. This in turn, has continued to spawn discrimination, injustice, exploitation and oppression of women.

According to Uchem (2001:46) as he rightly observes;

> On the basis of gender inequality, Nigeria cultures, with few isolated exception, generally deny women the right to participate in decision making a leadership, right to attain certain educational heights, the right to gainful to freedom to expression, the right to freedom of religion, the right of freedom of movement, the right to hold an option and the right to higher promotion.

These are all breaches against the fundamental human rights, which the Universal Declaration of Human Right (UDHR), prohibits, when it recognizes that all human beings, male or female are born with equal rights.

A focus on right carries with it a greater sense of urgency; responsibility and obligation for action to ensure that individual's right are respected, protected and fulfilled. A right is described as something to which one has a just claim. That is, the power or privilege to which one is justly entitled, something that one may properly claim as due. (Marriam – Webster 2009).

It is also defined as an interest which will be recognized and protected by a rule of law, respect for which is a legal duty, violation of which is a legal wrong (Curzon et al, 2007).

Accordingly, Human rights are those rights which are essential to life as human beings, basic standards without which people cannot survive and develop in dignity. They are inherent to the human person, inalienable and universal. These includes all rights observe by Uchem (2001) and of course women's reproductive health rights.

2.4 Review of Empirical Studies

Oluwakemi (2013) examined "Women and Reproductive Health Right in Nigeria" which focuses on reproductive health as a human rights issue and discusses the right

of women to reproductive health information, education and services. The study also looked at the right of women to safe motherhood, choice of fertility, contraception, protection against rape, sexually transmitted disease and female genital mutilation. The study uses two theories which are Agenda setting theory and the democractic participant theory. The research design used was survey method which centered 14 wards in Ika North East LGA, Delta State. The choice of area is to enhance the validity and reliability of the study and the homogeneity in geographical make up of the area. The population targeted 181,760. The study used purposive sampling method which enable the researcher to choose subjects who were able to provide quality information.

Furthermore, there are statutory, cultural and religious factors militating against women's reproductive health rights and they have been a major cause of women's continued oppression. Issues in reproductive rights from the point of view of gender equality are also discussed. The paper concluded that promoting reproductive health and rights is indispensable for economic growth of and poverty reduction in the society.

Agbese, A. O. (2021) studied "Three Newspapers' Coverage of Intimate Partner Violence against Women in Nigeria" the research explores how three national newspapers cover the cases of intimate partner violence against women (IPVAW) in Nigeria from 2015 to 2017 to contribute to global research on mediated representations of violence against women. The study focused on how Nigerian newspapers, The Guardian, Punch and Vanguard, reported the IPVAW cases from 2015 to 2017, and how they covered and framed IPVAW. Using quantitative content analysis, he found that the newspapers used episodic framing, blamed the victims, and

exonerated/ excused the men's actions. The study concluded that the high prevalence of IPV among women of reproductive age in this study shows that it is an important problem that women would rather not talk about or have accepted as a norm. It is associated with poor physical and mental health of women who are victims. And the study recommended that physicians routinely screen for IPV especially in patients with depressive symptoms, miscarriage and physical injuries. Screening will be a safe and cost-effective means for identifying women experiencing IPV, leading to appropriate interventions that will decrease further exposure to IPV and its adverse health consequences.

Sharma (2015) examined "The Reproductive rights and Women's Health in India" the description of the study is based on the social and legal position of women in India. The stereotype position of women and the changing dimension of women's struggle for their rights in modern world has made the study interesting. It is even more useful as reproductive right is central to women's right and their freedom. Emancipation of women is incomplete without assuring them reproductive rights. It is only when women have control over their body they can exercise all other rights. Women will be physically and mentally free when they will be able to take decision regarding their body themselves. Various human rights of women can be acquired only when they can exercise their reproductive rights. The study uses questionnaire in answering its research questions. The study looked on social and legal position of women in India and also the rights of women's health and reproductive rights.

However, Sharma's study uses both broadcast and print media, the present study focused on the print media alone. The two studies also differ in terms of population and area of coverage. The study recommended that there should be need for the

government to take initiative to make reproductive right as a prime concern in the health policies since reproductive right is the indicator to know the status of women in the society. There is a need to have access to appropriate, affordable and quality health care facilities and related services for women. There is need for health programmes to focus more on women's health including reproductive health. Need for proper monitoring of health programmes whether it reaches every nook and corner of India or not especially rural parts of India. The study also recommend on the need for proper implementation of laws and programmes that has been made for the health of people and special care has to be given to women's health.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Agenda-setting theory, the Development media theory and knowledge gap theory. However, regardless of its criticism and certain constraints, Agenda-setting theory cannot be ignored, as the theory has some practical relevance in the way and manner in which press cover issues, especially those related to women health. Newspaper can publish reports consistently on how women can engage in ante-natal examination, fibroid examination, and breast-self examination through the application of agenda setting function in publishing news reports on the said issues on the front pages, inside pages or back pages (Soola, 2003).

The agenda-setting theory allows us to study the kind of prominence press is given to a particular issue; this makes us to understand how *Guardian* and *Punch* cover issues related to women health. Similarly, journalism as a profession has moved towards specialization in the news coverage of some key areas, women health inclusive. It is pertinent to point out that newspapers readers want to be educated, not just to be informed. And that, print media have been found to be effective media in influencing

the reading public as well as opinion leaders on issues of public health through the constant application of agenda-setting (Evans and Ulasevich, 2005).

Similarly, development media theory is seen relevant in treating women health issues in Nigerian newspapers. Primarily, the theory is rooted towards assessing the mass media in achieving development in developing nations. McQual is of the view that since the four theories of the press (Authoritarian, Libertarian, Soviet/Communist and social responsibility) by Schramm, Peterson and Siebert are considered inadequate in explaining the media system of developing nations, thus the need for another theory becomes necessary.

Furthermore, in the service of any development, media are agents of social change. The kind of change they are expected to accomplish is the transition to new customs and practices. A consistent report on ante-natal issues is a good transition to new custom, and reportage on cases of VVF or Fibroid has also become essential. Breast cancer is one of the women health issues which its treatment constitutes a great physical, psychological, economic and developmental challenge that demands special attention by the Nigerian press. (Wyne, et al 2003).

The press also played a pivotal role in the development process of a country, making newspapers channels of communication that are capable of reaching heterogeneous audience simultaneously with uniform massages. In Nigeria, press regularly covers all sorts of issues such as health, crime, sports or political news (Soola, 2003).

2.5.1 Agenda Setting Theory

First propounded by Maxwell Macomb and Donald Shaw in 1972, they originally suggested that the media sets the public agenda, in the sense that, they may not exactly tell you what to think about.

According to Defleur and Rokeach (1976:7), this theory describes a very influence of the media in the creation of public awareness and concern of salient issues by the newspaper.

In relating this to the subject matter, the press (newspaper) should create more public awareness on women, their health and reproductive rights.

The link between health and in our case, women health issues, and the media does have theoretical bases. The Agenda- Setting Theory does provide the framework for explaining the coverage of women health issues in Nigeria. (Hanson and Maxcy cited in McCombs and Shaw, 1972) as having stated that, —readers learn not only about a given issue, but also how much importance to attach to that issue from the amount of information in a news story and its position. They add that, the media exert considerable influence on certain issues by persistently presenting objects suggesting what individuals in society should think about, know about, and have feelings about. Rogers and Dearing's' (1987) model provides for (i) media agenda, (ii) public agenda, and (iii) policy agenda. This study is not about determining public agenda, but it would be interesting to find out whether the policy agenda on women health issues in Nigeria has impacted on media agenda seen through newspaper coverage and portrayal of the same subject matter.

2.5.2 Development Media Theory

This is seen relevant in treating women health issues problems in Nigeria. The main assumption of the theory was that communication serves as an engine-wire for development, there can be no development without communication. Therefore McQuail posits that the media must accept and carry out positive development tasks in line with national established policy (McQuail, 1987).

Similarly, the theory paves ways for policy makers to design certain strategies towards improving public health as well as women health issues. Despite the strength of the theory some of the weaknesses cannot be ignored. As scholars do not seem to agree on one of the assumptions of the theory which says —in the interest of development, the state has a right to intervene in, or restrict media operation and devices and direct control can be justifiedl. (Anaeto, Onabajo & Osifeso, 2012). Scholars still argue that the assumption goes again the working of press freedom which distracts the principal idea of development.

Women health issues being an issue of development has become a global issue, giving attention to it by the media, stake holders such as policy makers, government and NGOs will make them feel that women health issues is a crucial issue which needs to be given attention.

2.5.3 Knowledge Gap Theory

Propounded by Tichenor, Donohue and Olien at the University of Minnesota in the 70's. "They believed that with the increase of information in the society people of high socio-economic status tend to have better ability to information (1970), they proposed."

Media (press) should circulate or distribute information evenly to the general public so that the protection of women's health and reproductive rights could be made known to the general public.

2.6 Summary

This chapter has reviewed two major concepts in the study: Newspapers coverage of women's health reproductive rights, as well as review of related studies by experts in the field.

From the chapter, it is crystal clear that the press is responsible in enhancing women's health and reproductive rights due to the level of preminence it enact on it.

The research findings reveals that the way the newspaper media covers issues relating to women's health and reproductive rights can contribute either positively or negatively to their will being. According to UNESCO (1980), a consistent picture emerges from research studies which have investigated the newspapers media's portrayal of women.

This designed image made it possible for women to have interest in issues relating to their health and reproductive rights. Gender issues are mainly in women's column or in the inside pages at the best.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHOLOGY

3.1 Preamble

In this chapter, the methodology for the research is presented. The chapter is divided into eight (8) parts containing research design, population of study, sampling technique, unit of analysis, content categories, coding, intercoder reliability and method of data analysis.

3.2 Research Design

The Content Analysis method is chosen for the research. According to Amy Luo (2019), "Content analysis is used to identify patterns in recorded communication" Content analysis is used to identify patterns in recorded communication. Scribbr (2018) notes that content analysis systematically collects data from a set of text which could be written, visual or oral. It can be both qualitative and quantitative.

According to Asemah, Gujbawa, Ekhareofo and Okpanach (2017) content analysis is the examination of a document, newspaper, broadcast items, advertisements etc., to see their manifest content to show only relationship among or between variables. But also, to measure such variables or the characteristics inherent in the content. It is a means through which meaning can be gathered from recorded human communication. It is typically suitable for conducting a research that deals with large amount of data, identifying that are otherwise illusive to detect, and examine possibly-embedded symbolic meanings within those identified patterns. (Yakubu Ibrahim (2018:57)

3.3 Population of the Study

Majority of Newspapers in Nigeria are produced in Lagos and Abuja. Some states however have some publications of theirs.

However, since it would not be possible for the researcher to content analyze all the newspaper in Nigeria at a time, especially with the period of this study, the researcher thus, decided to select the *Guardian* and the *Punch* newspapers.

The content of the two newspapers would be content analyzed on these following days; Monday to Friday every week making it (344) copies to be studied for the period of January-June (six months).

The researcher was able to know which of the newspaper had the highest coverage of women's and reproductive rights through the following specifications; news article, prominence, direction of stories, opinion columns etc.

3.4 Sample and Sampling Procedure

The researcher used purposive sampling method based on the findings. The researcher purposively selected two national newspapers which are privately owned for the study. The study time was on Mondays to Fridays from January to June 2019, a total of six (6) months. The total newspaper population was (344) copies representing the two selected newspapers.

The researcher decided to use the purposive sampling since it is content analysis research work with the aim of comparing two newspapers that focus on a single event. Therefore, the *Guardian* had a total of 36 issues while the *Punch* had 23 issues on

women's health and reproductive rights. Purposive sampling is believed to be the best for studying any communication factor like headlines, editorials etc.

3.5 Method of Data Collection

Content analysis method is and effective and reliable measuring instrument with the aid of coding sheet. Thus, the researcher used the coding sheet to collect data to facilitate easy and accurate analysis. The coding sheet was constructed to measure or reflect the following content categories.

3.5.1 News Articles

The total amount of news articles covered by both newspapers on the front page, inside page and back page on women's health and reproductive rights for the period of study from January to June (six months).

3.5.2 Prominence

The researcher considered the prominence given to the course of study. Is it on front page, back page, inside pages etc.

3.5.3 Direction of Stories

The direction of stories was evaluated to see whether the stories published were favorable, that is, whether the stories support the protection of women's health and reproductive rights. And unfavorable, that is if the stories are against giving women the full protection of their health and reproductive rights.

3.5.4 Editorials / Opinion / Features

To know which of the newspapers had the highest coverage of stories on the total page of opinion columns, editorial page and features on course of study.

3.6 Method of Data Analysis

The researcher made use of descriptive tables in order to make a comprehensive statistical decision on the different types and level of the report on women's health and reproductive right by the two newspapers.

Considering that the study was viewed in form of research questions, it was done through descriptive statistics, such as the use of tables and percentages.

3.7 Unit of Analysis

The unit of analysis is the entity that frames what is being analyzed in a study or the article being studied as a whole. The study looked at Newspaper Coverage of Women's Health and Reproductive Rights: A Comparative Analysis of *The Guardian* and *Punch* Newspaper.

This research focused on the content, stories, news article, editorials and opinions on the subject matter within the stipulated time. And these would form the basis for the analysis in the two selected newspapers. *The Guardian* and *Punch* Newspaper.

3.8 Content Categories

Emergent coding was used to establish the content categories for this research. Jonaid Fyookbail, (September 2019), described Emergent Coding as the most radical software breakthrough to appear in decades. Coding in content analysis is the

summarizing of responses into groups, reducing the number of different responses to make comparison easier. This research focused on the content, stories, news article, editorials and opinions on the subject matter for proper analysis and understanding.

3.9 Coding

Content coding is the placing of a unit of analysis into a content category. Coding simplifies and explains the process of content analysis. In this survey, four coders were created for the analysis with appropriate explanation on the coding to ensure that the coders were able to identify the data and decipher their appropriate categories. To facilitate the coding process, the researcher developed a computer application using Oracle Application Express (APEX). According to Yakubu Ibrahim, September 2018, APEX is a web based and low code development platform that runs on Oracle datatbase. It is used for rapid application development with robust reporting capabilities. The reporter created the coding sheet on the application and it was used to record appropriate entries on the articles examined.

3.10 Inter Coder Reliability

Inter coder reliability refers to the extent to which two or more independent coders agree on the coding of the content of interest with an application of the same coding scheme. In surveys, such coding is most often applied to respondents' answers to open-ended questions, but in other types of research, coding can also be used to analyze other types of written or visual content (e.g. newspaper stories, people's facial expressions, or television commercials). Intercoder reliability is often referred to as *interrater* or *interjudge reliability.* Intercoder reliability is a critical component in the content analysis of open-ended survey responses, without which the interpretation of the content cannot be considered objective and valid, although high intercoder

reliability is not the only criteria necessary to argue that coding, Paul J. Lavrakas (2008)

In this survey, ten per cent (10%) of the total data were coded. This helped the researcher to detect poorly defined categories and provide further explanation on the rules for categorization where significant dissent existed. Inter coder reliability was calculated to determine the degree of agreement between the coders using Holsti's formula as contained in Wimmer and Dominick, 2006.

$$\text{Reliability} = \frac{4M}{N5+N4}$$

M is the total coding decisions on which the four coders agree and N5 and N4 are the total number of coding decisions by the coders.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Preamble

The data gathered from this study is presented and analysed to arrive at specific result that answers the research questions raised at the beginning of the study.

The instrument for data collection is content analysis. This chapter deals with analysis of data gotten from content analysis using the code sheets. It will compare and analyse the data and interpret the findings. The analysed data is presented in summarized frequency tables and percentage where necessary.

4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis

The presentation of data and analysis of the findings of this study were done to address the relevant research questions that were raised earlier in the first chapter of this study. In order to give an adequate and accurate analysis of the data collected, the researcher concentrated only on the use of descriptive statistics, which involves the use of statistical data.

The data contained in the table were distributed in percentage (%) in order to facilitate comparison between the two selected newspapers.

a. To answer the first question whether the *Guardian* newspaper reported news articles on women's health and reproductive rights on the full front page, inside page and back page more than the Punch newspaper, the research took a frequency count of the news articles published in the event by the two newspapers for the period under reviews, January to June, 2012.

Table 4.1.1 shows the findings, the total number of news articles published by Guardian and Punch newspapers on the front page, inside page and back page.

Story Position	Guardian No. of News Articles Published	Punch No. of News Articles Published
Front Page	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Inside Page	31 (86.1%)	14 (100%)
Back page	5 (13.9%)	0 (0%)
Total	36 (100%)	14 (100%)

Source: Author's computation (2020)

Table 4.1.1 shows that both *Guardian* and *Punch* newspapers had no stories or articles on their front pages.

On the inside page, *Guardian* published 31 news articles which is 13.9% as against 0 which accounted for 0% in the *Punch*.

b. To determine which of the print medium had the highest coverage of the stories on the total of opinion columns, editorials, straight news stories and features on issue of women's health and reproductive rights. Another descriptive table is drawn below.

Table 4.1.2: shows the Nature of Story in *Guardian* and *Punch* Newspapers.

Nature of Story	The Guardian newspaper	The Punch newspaper
Straight News Stories	23 (63.9%)	10 (43.5%)
Feature Articles	8 (22.2%)	3 (13.0%)
Opinion Articles	4 (11.1%)	1 (7.1%)
Editorials	1 (2.8%)	0 (0%)
Total	36 (100%)	14 (100%)

Source: Author's computation (2020)

Table 4.1.2 shows that *Guardian* newspaper has the straight news stories with 23 pages, which accounted for 63.9% as against 10 which accounted for 43.5% of *Punch* newspaper.

Also *Guardian* had the highest number in features with 8 which 8 is 22.2% as against 3 in the *Punch* which accounted for 13.0%.

In the opinion column, the *Punch* had 1 which is 7.1% as against 4 which accounted for 11.1% in *Guardian.*

Finally, for the editorial pages *Guardian* had 1 which accounted for 2.8% while the *Punch* had none.

c. To know what kind of prominence that was given by both newspapers on the subject matter of study, the researcher categorized the different unit of analysis which are in three; full page, top-half of the page and bottom-half of the page.

Table 4.1.3: shows level of prominence given to women's health and reproductive rights issue by both newspapers.

Prominence	Guardian Newspaper	Punch Newspaper
Full page	2 (5.6%)	0 (0%)
Top Half of the page	14 (38.9%)	9 (64.3%)
Bottom Half of the page	2 (55.6%)	5 (35.7%)
Total	36 (100%)	14 (100%)

Source: Author's computation (2020)

Table 4.1.3 shows that *Guardian* gave more prominence to the issue under study. It published 2 news articles on women's health and reproductive rights on full page which accounted for 5.6%. For Top half of the page, *Guardian* published 14 news articles which accounted for 38.9% and it had 20 news articles on Bottom half of the page which accounted for 55.6%.

The Punch newspaper published no stories on full page but had 9 stories on top half of the page accounted for 64.3% and 5 stories on the bottom half of the page accounted for 35.7%.

d. To ascertain the direction given to the subject matter of the project work, the researcher established two categories, Favourable and Unfavourable. Favourable depends on the tone and attitude of the writer. The following were considered; editorials, opinion, features, etc.

Table 4.1.4: shows the direction of stories by both newspapers.

Story Direction	Guardian Newspaper	Punch Newspaper
Favourable	36 (100%)	14 (100%)
Unfavourable	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	36 (100%)	14 (100%)

Source: Author's computation (2020)

Table 4.1.4 shows that both newspapers published news articles, editorials, opinion articles and features that were favourable to the course under study. That is, all stories published were in support of the protection of women's health and reproductive rights in Nigeria. Guardian publishes a total of 36 stories which accounted for 100% of the stories publishes as against 14 stories of punch which accounted for 100%.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The findings of the study establish that the guardian newspaper being established in 1982 and a widely read newspaper among the National newspapers in Nigeria gave more coverage to women's health and reproductive rights issues in Nigeria more than the Punch newspaper within the period of January to June 2012.

The *Guardian* did not only publish more stories on all aspects but also gave more prominence to stories on women than the *Punch* newspaper.

Although, the Guardian newspaper has the highest coverage but had no story on the total of front page. Judging from this, one would have thought that since a woman (Maiden Alex Ibru) in charge of the Guardian newspaper, then women will be given

more priority in front pages of the newspaper. The Punch is however believed to be business oriented newspaper.

Nevertheless, table 1 shows that the *Guardian* had no stories on the front page which accounted for 0%. So also is the *Punch*. But the *Guardian* had 31 stories which accounted 86.1% on the inside page as against 14 stories which accounted for 100% in the Punch. And on the back pages, the *Guardian* had 5 stories which accounted for 13.9% as against 0% in the *Punch* which accounted for 0%.

The researcher also found that the *Guardian* published more news stories, features, opinions and editorials more than the *Punch* newspaper. For straight news stories, *Guardian* had 23 news stories accounted for 63% as against 10 in the *Punch* which accounted for 71.4% for features, *Guardian* had 8 stories accounted for 22.2% as against 3 stories in Punch which accounted for 21.4% in the opinion column, the *Guardian* had 4 stories which accounted for 11.1% as against 1 which accounted for 7.1% in the *Punch* newspaper.

Finally, for the editorial pages, *Guardian* had just 1 story which accounted for 2.8% as against 0 in the *Punch* which is 0%.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

The project work was embarked upon as ascertain the level of coverage given to women health and reproductive rights in Nigeria between January to June 2012. Two newspapers were used as the population of the study, the *Guardian* and the *Punch* newspapers which are both privately owned national dailies believed not to be biased in reporting. The two newspapers were purposively chosen because the researcher wanted to know in details the pattern of coverage of women's health and reproductive rights.

However, for the purpose of proper comparison and conclusion, the researcher formulated some questions/hypothesis such as; what levels of prominence were given by both newspapers? To answer the questions formulated, since it is a content analysis study, the researcher used the coding guide and coding sheet in gathering of data and was analysed later with descriptive tables.

The researcher made use of the agenda setting theory and knowledge gap theory in covering an issue of this nature. In addition, the favourable directions of stories in the *Guardian* newspaper were more than that of the *Punch*. However, there were no unfavourable stories on the protection of women's health and reproductive rights in Nigeria.

The *Guardian* has the highest coverage on the total of all pages of editorials, opinions, features and news stories on women's health and reproductive rights. By implication thus, considering the Agenda setting medium, knowledge gap theory of the press, the

Guardian might likely enjoy more patronage than *Punch* within the period under consideration.

5.2 Conclusion

From the disclosure, it is evident that Nigerian women are continuously faced with all manner of violations and the enforcement of their rights is still pending. This is any way possible if the stakeholders demonstrate willingness and ability ensuring conductive environment

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the finding from the investigation, the following recommendations are made:

i. Message of women's health and reproductive rights should be spread through a wide circulated newspaper

ii. The campaign against violation of women's right should be placed in the medium that cannot only stimulate readers interest but also has the tendency in changing their views positively towards the campaign

iii. The print medium should devote more space and time in the coverage of women's stories with the aid of educating and enlightening the minds of the people for positive change.

iv. Finally, the medium should not be biased and also they should help to maintain balance in the society by giving equal opportunity to both sex in reporting.

5.4 Suggestion for Further Studies

Newspapers are essential in the spread and dissemination of information to the public. Other sources are the radio and television, although they are limited by brevity the scope of the present study did not give the coverage to explore the angle of integrating the two media which are broadcast and print. The researcher hereby recommends further studies in the possibility of integrating the two media in order to streamline our communication policy for greater effectiveness.

The researcher was not able to analyze the whole issues related to women, rather, limited the research to ten common issues related to women health; during pregnancy or child birth. This is due to constraint of time and money. Also the researcher used two coders to analyze the newspapers. In the process of gathering the data one of the coders found the filling of the coding sheet very difficult as such, the coder was replaced by another well trained coder.

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APPENDIX 1

CODING GUIDE

SUBJECT CATEGORY	UNIT OF ANALYSIS	CODE NUMBER
Story position	Front page	1
	Inside page	2
	Back page	3
Nature of story	Straight news stories	4
	Feature articles	5
	Opinion articles	6
	Editorials	7
Prominence	Full page	8
	Top half of the page	9
	Bottom half of the page	10
Story direction	Favourable	11
	unfavorable	12

APPENDIX 11

CODING SHEET

Story Position			Nature of story			Prominence			Story direction		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
