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August 2020

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**PRINT MEDIA REPRESENTATION OF NIGERIAN WOMEN IN THE NEWS: A
STUDY OF FOUR SELECTED NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS**

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Abstract

This study investigated newspaper representation of women in the news. A total of four newspapers were studied. They are *Vanguard*, *The Punch*, *The Guardian* and *ThisDay*. The duration for the study was three years (January 1st, 2015 to December 31st, 2017). The study was guided by three objectives and two hypotheses. Content analysis was used for the study with the code sheet as the instrument for data collection. Simple percentages were used to answer the research questions while the chi-square test of independence was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The result showed that entertainment and domestic news about women appeared more than other categories like economy, politics, education, health and the environment. Also, the tone of newspaper representation of women was largely negative. The researcher recommends, among other things, that journalists should improve on their representation of women in the news since women constitute 49% of the population of Nigeria.

Keywords: Gender, newspaper, media, news, representation, role.

Introduction

Over the years, women have been said to be marginalised in media representation across the globe. It was partly in recognition of such marginalisation of women that the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing China in 1995. The conference revealed the media as one of 12 critical areas of concern. Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action noted a "lack of gender sensitivity in the media, part of which was the failure to eliminate the gender-based stereotyping that can be found in the public and private, local, national and international media organizations." They called for "increased participation, and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication; and promotion of a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media" (Beijing Platform for Action, Section J, Women and Media, 1995).

The issue of women representation, stereotype and equality has been of major concern over the years. Women contribute a lot to the development of the society but not all their activities are represented in the media. Women have made tremendous contributions to national development in the areas of health, politics, industry, education, and agriculture just to mention a few. Most people still see women as the weaker gender and treat them with that attitude. The media are usually considered as powerful forces that are very active in shaping popular beliefs and perceptions of the audience by influencing social attitudes either positively or negatively. One way through which the media do this is through representation. The media do not seem to have given boost to the activities of women in recent times compared to the earlier Beijing declaration to upgrade and balance the representation of women in the media.

In Nigeria for instance, women are marginalised in the news content of newspapers. When they are given identity, it is usually done in a negative light. Ukozor (2004) observes that women are never key players in media issues, women are excluded and marginalised and that the news media exclude women's voices or portray them as objects who do not have opinions or are only fit to be seen as advertising models.

The representation of women in the media has received attention in the media. (Kay, Matuszek & Munson, 2015). The inclusion of women in the media provides specific examples with the implications of which is dependent on how they are represented, and these representations can reinforce or challenge stereotypes. The manner in which women are represented in the media is of critical concern to media research because of the power of the media in shaping public views through its representation mechanisms. There is a consensus among researchers (e.g. Allan, 2004; Burke & Mazzarella; 2008) that the quality of news media representations helps to shape public perceptions about the world as well as those regarding gender. Gadzekpo (2011) recalled that interest in how gender is represented in African media had been renewed since the democratic transitions in the 1990s across the continent brought liberalisation of the media.

Nigeria has a very formidable patriarchal structure such that women are summarily described as domestic workers. In Nigeria, the men are perceived as lords over their families. Their wives must take permission from them before doing things like

travelling, taking certain medications, especially when they are pregnant, allowing certain visitors like old friends into their houses, among others. This is not the case with men as they are free to travel, take medications and allow visitors into their houses.

In today's Nigeria, children still learn gender roles from their parents and the trend is passed from one generation to another. Even the type of toys that parents buy for children in contemporary Nigeria reflect the gender roles. The male children are bought toys like vehicles while the female ones are bought baby toys.

A representation can be for an individual (such as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nigeria, Nsukka) social groups (such as age groups, gender groups, racial groups), ideas (such as law and order, unemployment), or events (such as the mass burial of 73 victims of herdsmen attack in Benue State). A representation could also be a single image, a sequence of images or a whole programme, written words, spoken words, among others. Representation is a tool through which people, objects, places, and a host of others, are projected. It is the mental picture created in the minds of others through the use of words, pictures, videos or symbols. Shaw (2010) says that there are two main arguments for the importance of representation. First, people desire to see people like them. If a person wishes people to be exposed to something, he or she puts people like them in it.

On the other hand, if those people do not buy that particular genre or medium, it means care was not taken to represent them unless one is just being a good person putting good things into the world (Shaw, 2010). News describes a factual and current account of an event. News, from the journalistic standpoint, is a type of media content that provides details of recent happenings. What constitutes news is often controversial or even difficult to be subjected to scholarly and professional definitions as there is no accepted definition of news. Ekeanyanwu (2017) posits that news is one of the most challenging issues to define in mass communication because there are almost as many definitions of news as there are journalists. Harcup and O'Neill (2016, p. 2) affirm the difficulty in defining news thus: "The deceptively simple question 'What is news?' remains pertinent even as we ponder on the future of journalism in the digital age." Often, it is even difficult for journalists to define news. This difficulty persists, even though journalists are involved in the act of gathering, processing, and disseminating news. Ekeanyanwu (2017) posits that whichever way one looks at news, the point of convergence is that news must be something of interest to a significant number of people. It is against this backdrop that this study examined newspaper representation of women in the news.

Statement of the Problem

One of the critical issues in gender studies is how women are represented in media contents. This issue is critical such that some international conferences and conventions (e.g. Beijing 1995, United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1979) have condemned and publicised the need to break public stereotypes through a change in media policy and contents. Some scholars (e.g. Dogo, 2014; Yilmaza, & Kirazoluğu, 2014) have attributed the imbalance in media representation of women to the patriarchal nature of society considering that the media mirror the society. Kumari and Joshi (2015, p.44) specifically notes that, "Whether deliberately or unintentionally, the way women have been portrayed in media is

exaggerated form of real-life circumstances and assumptions." Negative representation of women in the news could have a corresponding impact on the way people perceive women. Abeda (2011) regrets that the negative influence of patriarchy on women is that all the power and authority within the family, the society and the state remain entirely in the hands of men. Many scholars have also examined media representation of women but studies from Nigerian scholars examining print media representation of women in the news are scanty. Examining women representation in the news is pivotal because studies have shown that news is the most consumed media genre. This suggests that understanding how women are represented in the news provide fresh perspectives in understanding gender construction in the media, hence the need for this study.

Moreso, women representation in the media is a current issue so, current studies are always required to ascertain if there are changes in the manner in which women are represented. Therefore, a study of newspaper representation of women in the news is worth investigating so as to provide empirical evidence regarding trends on the representation of women so as to fuel discussions on the need for positive representation of women in the news as reported in newspapers.

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study was to determine newspaper representation of women in the news. Specifically, the study sought to achieve the following:

1. Ascertain the types of news stories that report issues relating to women.
2. Ascertain the tone of representation of women in selected newspapers.
3. Identify the types of frames used in reporting issues concerning women in the selected newspapers.

Research Hypotheses

This study tested the following hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance

Ho1: Story type does not significantly predict tone of representation of women in the news.

Ho2: Story type does not significantly predict newspaper frame representation of women in the news.

Literature Review

Media representation describes a depiction, a likeness or a constructed image through media contents. Orgad (2012) describes media representation as the process of producing meanings through the creation of symbolic forms and content. Orgad adds that media representation has been studied as a route to understanding the power of media texts, particularly as such representations reproduce ideologies and create knowledge and "truth." Burke and Mazzarella (2008) describe media presentation to mean how the media present the world to the audience through its contents which may be in text, image sound, video or a combination of all. Lacey (2000) says that media representation can be examined from the perspective of semiotic approach and discursive approach.

Suffice it to say that news is the projection of the dominant ideology; it follows that there is likely to be cases of misrepresentation in news contents. Bell (1991) found that news may misrepresent people or events. To justify his point, Bell summarised an earlier study of climate change coverage, in which news reports were sent back to (expert) sources with the request to indicate (in) accuracy. It was found that only 29

percent of the stories were accurate, 55 percent slightly inaccurate and 16 percent inaccurate (Bell, 1991, p. 217). Nwaolikpe (2014) studied the representation of women's images in Nigerian newspapers and found out that the photographic images of women in the print media are portrayed negatively, depicting the Nigerian women as being confined to the areas traditionally meant for women.

The term woman describes a female human being. It is also sometimes used about a female human, not minding the age, such as "women's rights". Concerning to gender, a woman may also be a person whose sex assignment does not align with their gender identity (Morrow & Messinger, 2006). Women, just like their men counterparts deserve some rights. This is expressed as women's rights. The clamour for such rights is as a result of the perceived injustices against women in all facets of life. Johnson (2014, p.2) regrets that although women form half of the world's population, work three-fourths of the world's working hours, they receive one-tenth of the world's salary and own one percent of the world's land. Johnson adds that women form two-thirds of illiterate adults, and together with their dependent children form three-fourths of the world's starving people. According to Johnson, to make a bleak picture worse, women are subject to domestic violence at home and are raped, prostituted, trafficked into sexual slavery and murdered by men to the degree that is not reciprocal.

The manner in which the media represent women is likely to have a corresponding impact on public perception concerning gender mainstreaming. Perception is the interpretation of messages. It is the meaning attached to what our sensory organs are exposed to. Perception is the first step in social cognition. Representation explains how the media present both males and females in their contents. Media representation refers to the varying and evolving ways in which the media depict or portray both gender in their contents (Huda & Ali, 2015).

In print media, the common ways of portraying gender are through written words and pictures. Therefore, the choice of words, manner of representation, location of stories and choice of pictures and illustrations among others determine how to analyse print media portrayal of gender. Mansoor (2013) conducted a study on print media language and contribution to the stereotypical portrayal of Pakistani women. The result showed that the respondents' understanding regarding the presence of gender stereotyping of women issues in the print media's coverage were similar among men and women showing no significant difference. The researcher also found that the awareness that reported texts on women issues portray patriarchal ideology also indicated that there was no significant difference in the perceptions of men and women. Martinez- Sheperd (2006) did a study on portrayals of women in prime time reality TV programmes. The results indicate that in terms of roles, attitudes, behaviour and appearance, women were portrayed positively.

They were also often depicted as the winners or victors in these shows. Ajibua, Oladitan, Oyerinde, & Bewaji (2013) did a study on the Status of Gender Media Coverage of Sports. The results of the study indicated that the minimum percentage coverage for male athletes was 71.6% and the maximum coverage was 92.6% whereas the minimum coverage for female athletes was 7.6% and the maximum percentage coverage was 28.4%. According to the researchers, such gives more visibility to the male athletes than female athletes. Ashong and Batta (2011) examined gender

representativeness in training and practice of journalism. The result of this study presents a rather disturbing reality. Whereas there are more females as students, there are less of them in the practice of journalism and even as teachers. This may make gender representation in the broadcast media a bit challenging. The missing gap in this study is the inability of the researcher to investigate representation of women in the news. See also Nwaolikpe (2014), Mëniku (2014), Enwefah (2016), Aznar, Rodríguez-Wangüemer and Morales (2017) and Bharti and Kumar (2016), Collins, (2011) Lindsey, (2016) Matthes, Prieler, and Adam, (2016) Lindsey, (2016), Aulette, Wittner and Blakely, (2009), Brennan and Vandenberg (2009); Hulten (2015) Patterson, Emslie, Mason, Fergie and Hilton (2016). The point to make here is that women representation in the news has received attention in literature.

Theoretical Framework

This study found expression on media priming theory. The theory was propounded by Iyengar and Kinder in 1987. The priming theory holds that media images trigger related thoughts in the minds of audience members. The theory has its origins in psychological network models of memory. According to these models, information is stored in memory as nodes, with each node corresponding to a concept. Nodes (concepts) are connected to one another via associative pathways, and the distance between nodes indicates how related they are.

When a node is activated (for example, when the image of a smoking factory chimney activates “global warming”), this activation can spread to other related nodes (for example, “concern”). The activation of nodes increases how accessible they are in memory—they are “primed” for application to other stimuli. The basic media-priming process consists of two steps. In the first step, information received through a media channel (i.e., the “media prime”) activates preexisting associated knowledge in the mind of the receiver (i.e., “available” cognitive units or concepts). This activation makes the cognitive units more accessible, which means that the receiver is more likely to use them in interpreting and evaluating a subsequently encountered target stimulus (i.e., the attitude object). A media priming effect occurs if, in the second step, the receiver applies the prime, now more accessible concept to a target stimulus when s/he would not otherwise have done this. The first step thus therefore, of the priming process, and the second speaks to its consequences (but not overly so) (Moy, Tewksbury & Rinke 2016). Based on the postulations of the priming theory, it can be said that media representation of women is capable of triggering certain images in the minds of the readers.

Methodology

This study used content analysis and textual analysis to determine the representation of Nigerian women in the news by four selected newspapers. It was decided that content analysis was better because it helped the researcher to examine newspaper contents on the subject matter. The population of this study was made up of all the national newspapers in Nigeria. The International Media Newspapers (2016) say there are a total of 28 national dailies in Nigeria. Therefore, the population was made up of all the national newspapers currently in circulation in Nigeria.

The sample size of this study was made up of four newspapers. They are *The Vanguard*, *The Punch*, *The Guardian* and *This Day* newspapers. These newspapers were selected based on the 2016 newspapers web ranking which ranked these newspapers as the top four in Nigeria. The study covered three years: from January 2015 - December 2017. The duration was selected to determine the changing trend in the representation of women in the newspapers in the last three consecutive years.

Sampling Technique

The researcher used constructed week to sample the newspaper issues. This was based on the result of Stempel (1952) who first reported that twelve issues from two constructed weeks could effectively predict a year. Consequently, the study made use of four newspapers for three years and a total of 12 editions of each of the newspapers were selected for each of the three years, thus leading to 36 issues for the four newspapers per year and 144 issues for the three years for all the newspapers.

The researcher made constructed weeks technique (composite weeks) of Jones and Carter (1959) to select the sample editions. To implement the constructed week technique, the researcher stratified the 12 months period of study into four subgroups of three months each. The groups were labelled as groups A, B, C and D. Group A was made up of January, February and March. Group B was made up of April, May and June. Group C was made up of July, August and September while group D was made up of October, November and December. One month was selected from each of the groups. To get a sampling fraction, the number of editions to be studied (144) was divided by the number of months (12) in a year. This resulted to 36 editions. Thus, 36 edition dates (days) were randomly selected from the constructed weeks, and the same dates were studied across the four newspapers to make analyses across the papers. This led to a total of 144 editions. The table below shows the implementation of the constructed week:

Table I: Constructed week for the selected newspaper editions

	2015	2016	2017
January	10 th 15 th 27 th	3 rd 11 th 27 th	14 th 22 nd 30 th
April	2 nd 7 th 30 th	13 th 18 th 29 th	4 th 17 th 26 th
July	3 rd 17 th 26 th	18 th 22 nd 29 th	10 th 19 th 28 th
October	13 th 18 th 27 th	1 st 7 th 22 nd	11 th 22 nd 30 th
December	13 th 22 nd 31 st	12 th 20 th 31 st	1 st 10 th 28 th

The unit of analysis for this study was news stories from the four newspapers selected.

Content Categories

The news items were evaluated based on the following:

Type of news stories that report issues relating to women

The following were used:

Entertainment news: News that focus on entertainment like music.

Education news: News that paid attention to education like examination malpractice.

Sport news: News items that are based on sports like football.

Political news: News items with political undertone like election.

Economic news: News items based on the economy like economic recession.

Health news: News items that are based on health issues like disease control.

Environmental news: News items based on the environment like flood.

Domestic News: News items that are related to domestic issues like housekeeping.

Tone of Representation

The tone of representation was categorized into three as shown below:

Positive language: Words that represent women in good light.

Negative language: Words that represent women in bad light.

Neutral language: Words that are neither negative nor positive.

The framing of women in the news

The following frames were used:

Thematic frames: News items that provided background and context to the stories reported were regarded as thematic.

Episodic Frames: Frames included all news stories that did not provide background and context to the issues reported.

Instrument For Data Collection

The instrument for data collection for this study was the code sheet. The code sheet was developed by the researcher for the purpose of the study. The code sheet was in two sections. The first section contained information on instructions to the coders on how to code the data. The second section contained the actual code sheet with columns. Data for the study were collected by examining the newspapers and sorting out news stories based on how they relate to the content categories. The validity of the instrument was ascertained by two lecturers from Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria, Nsukka ascertained the validity of the code sheet in line with the research objectives.

The researchers determined the reliability of the study with the use of two coders who were randomly selected to do the coding. The inter-coder reliability for this study was carried out by randomly selecting 10% of the news items. Using Holsti's formula (cited in Wimmer & Dominick, 2006), as shown below:

$$R = \frac{2M}{N1 + N2}$$

Where:

M = The number of coding decisions which two coders agree.

N1 & N2 – The number of coding decisions by the first and second coder respectively. The calculation yielded inter-coder reliability of 0.85, an indication of high reliability.

Method of Data Analysis

The analysis of data for this study was done with the use of both descriptive and inferential statistics. Therefore, the researcher used simple percentage to answer the research questions while Chi-Square test of independence was used to test the hypotheses

at 0.05 level of significance. The analysis was done using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22. The analysed data were then presented in tables and charts.

In this chapter, the result of the study is hereby presented for analysis. The result of this study shows that all the 144 editions that were sampled all had news stories about women. These stories were examined in line with the research objectives and the outcome and a total of 317 news stories about women were generated. The analysis is presented in the tables below:

Table 2: Type of news stories relating to women in Nigeria

		Type of story								Total	
		Entertainment	Education	Sports	Politics	Economy	Health	Environment	Domestic		
News paper	<i>Vanguard</i>	Count	13	10	5	3	3	3	2	39	78
		% of Total	4.1%	3.2%	1.6%	.9%	.9%	.9%	.6%	12.3%	24.6%
	<i>Punch</i>	Count	18	4	3	4	5	4	5	39	82
		% of Total	5.7%	1.3%	.9%	1.3%	1.6%	1.3%	1.6%	12.3%	25.9%
	<i>The Guardian</i>	Count	22	9	8	3	2	5	5	49	103
		% of Total	6.9%	2.8%	2.5%	.9%	.6%	1.6%	1.6%	15.5%	32.5%
	<i>ThisDay</i>	Count	18	12	3	2	2	3	2	12	54
		% of Total	5.7%	3.8%	.9%	.6%	.6%	.9%	.6%	3.8%	17.0%
Total		Count	71	35	19	12	12	15	14	139	317
		% of Total	22.4%	11.0%	6.0%	3.8%	3.8%	4.7%	4.4%	43.8%	100.0%

Table 2 above sought to ascertain the type of news stories that newspapers report about women. The result reveals the dominance of domestic related stories followed by entertainment. Women featured less in politics, sports, environment, economy and health, as well as education.

Table 3: Tone of newspaper news stories about women

	Tone of representation			Total
	Positive	Negative	Neutral	

Newspaper	<i>Vanguard</i>	Count	11	59	8	78
		% of Total	3.5%	18.6%	2.5%	24.6%
	<i>Punch</i>	Count	19	44	19	82
		% of Total	6.0%	13.9%	6.0%	25.9%
	<i>The Guardian</i>	Count	25	49	29	103
		% of Total	7.9%	15.5%	9.1%	32.5%
	<i>ThisDay</i>	Count	20	26	8	54
		% of Total	6.3%	8.2%	2.5%	17.0%
Total		Count	75	178	64	317
		% of Total	23.7%	56.2%	20.2%	100.0%

Results of Table 3 above sought to ascertain tone of newspaper representation of women in the news. The results suggest that most of the newspapers had negative tone of representation about women. News stories about women had few positive tones with less neutral representation.

Table 4: Type of Frames about women

			Type of frame		Total
			Episodic	Thematic	
Newspaper	<i>Vanguard</i>	Count	30	48	78
		% of Total	9.5%	15.1%	24.6%
	<i>Punch</i>	Count	57	25	82
		% of Total	18.0%	7.9%	25.9%
	<i>Guardian</i>	Count	69	34	103
		% of Total	21.8%	10.7%	32.5%
	<i>ThisDay</i>	Count	42	12	54
		% of Total	13.2%	3.8%	17.0%
Total		Count	198	119	317
		% of Total	62.5%	37.5%	100.0%

The result from Table 4 above sought to ascertain the themes of news stories from news items about women. The result shows the dominance of episodic frame, an indication that most of the newspapers frame issues relating to women without providing background to them.

Test of Hypotheses

This study tested five null hypotheses. The essential was to establish the association between news story type and other variables in the study.

Ho1: Story type does not significantly predict tone representation of women in the news.

Table 8: Chi-Square test analysis of the relationship between story type and tone of representation

Grouping	X ^{2cal}	Df	Critical value	Decision
Story type	471.356	14	3.841	Sig
Tone of representation				

The result from the table above reveals that the calculated X² value (471.356) is greater than the critical value (3.841) at 14 degree of freedom (df) and 0.05 confidence level. The first null hypothesis is therefore rejected and the researcher concludes that there is a significant statistical relationship between story type and tone of news paper representation of women.

Ho2: Story type does not significantly predict newspaper frame representation of women in the news.

Table 9: Chi-Square test analysis of the relationship between story type and frame of representation

Grouping	X ^{2cal}	Df	Critical value	Decision
Story type	230.308	7	3.841	Sig
Frame of representation				

The result from the table above reveals that the calculated X² value (230.308) is greater than the critical value (3.841) at 7 degree of freedom (DF) and 0.05 confidence level. The second null hypothesis is therefore rejected and the researcher concludes that there is a significant statistical relationship between story type and frame of newspaper representation of women.

Ho3: Story type does not significantly predict newspaper volume of representation of women in the news.

Discussion of Findings

This study examined newspaper representation of women in the news. Consequently, three objectives were formulated to provide direction for the study. Also, a total of three null hypotheses were tested in the study. The result of the study showed that the type of news stories that feature women were mostly entertainment and domestic related. This result is consistent with that of previous scholars (Collins, 2011; Lindsey, 2016; Matthes, Prieler, and Adam, 2016) who reported that although, women have gained access to education and employment and have expanded their roles, from the traditional roles of housewife and mother to very diverse jobs, the media still represent women and men in very different and stereotyped ways.

Such representation is likely to have a corresponding influence on public perception. Lindsey, (2016) found that media representation leads people to develop from an early age rigid beliefs about what behaviours are suitable for boys and girls and for women and men. Aulette, Wittner and Blakely, (2009) add that such thinking has been linked with the transmission and maintenance of gender inequality given that the media often legitimise such inequality by creating images and telling audiences which of these images are valid or not.

The result of this study also reveals that the tone of media representation of women is largely negative. This implies that women received largely negatively representation in the newspapers studied. This result is consistent with previous scholars (Brennan & Vandenberg (2009; Hulten 2015; Patterson, Emslie, Mason, Fergie, & Hilton 2016). The result also has implications on the way women are perceived as Wood (2014) reported that of the many influences on how the society views men and women, media are the most pervasive and one of the most powerful. Woven throughout our daily lives, media insinuate their messages into our consciousness at every turn. All forms of media communicate images of the sexes, many of which perpetuate unrealistic, stereotypical, and limiting perceptions. Wood adds that three themes describe how media represent gender.

First, women are underrepresented which falsely implies that men are the cultural standard and women are unimportant or invisible. Second, men and women are portrayed in stereotypical ways that reflect and sustain socially endorsed views of gender. Third, depictions of relationships between men and women emphasize traditional roles and normalize violence against women (Wood, 2014).

The result of the current study is similar to these three themes of Wood. It was also found that the newspapers studied used mostly episodic themes in reporting issues relating to women. What this means is that women issues are not deeply investigated. Background information on such issues is hardly provided. This result is similar to that of Len-Ríos, Rodgers, Thorson and Yoon (2005), Nwaolikpe (2014), Mëniku (2014), Enwefah (2016), Aznar, Rodríguez-Wangüemer and Morales (2017) and Bharti and Kumar (2016).

This study concludes that newspaper representation of women in the news in the last three years in Nigeria has largely been negative. Such representations have been significantly determined by the type of news story. When positive stories about women

are reported, they were given less prominence and volume. But when negative stories are reported, they are given banner headlines with high prominence and volume. Also, when women appear in important issues, they are represented in a manner that projects them as weak and dependent on men. Also, even issues like economic recession that typically affect both men and women, women are represented as victims of such circumstances.

Recommendations

Based on the results of the study, the researcher makes the following recommendations:

1. A legislation should be enacted compelling journalists to positively represent women in the news. This is needed because international treaties and agreements which Nigeria is signatory to appear to have been ineffective in promoting gender parity.
2. The Nigerian Union of Journalists must rise to the occasion in making sure that both men and women are equally represented in the news. In time past, NUJ often paid more attention to code of conduct. Time has come for the union to also take the issue of women representation as a serious human rights matter deserving urgent attention.
3. Media houses should also organize special counseling services for journalists with a view to encouraging them to break away from the socio-and cultural indicators that influence their representation of women in the news. This is cardinal because the perception that journalists hold about women is also likely to play a significant role in their representation of women in the news.
4. More women should be given the opportunity to operate at the managerial level of journalism practice. This is important because over time, evidence shows there are less women practicing journalism. Among the few, very few of them occupy decision-making positions. There is need for a change in that direction.
5. Journalists, when exercising their gate keeping desecration should also select positive news stories about women. This is important because women, just like men have both positive and negative stories.
6. When framing news stories about women, journalists should avoid projecting angles that negatively represents women.

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