
**HAVE THE NIGERIAN MAINSTREAM MEDIA COMPROMISED
ITS ROLE AS THE FOURTH ESTATE OF THE REALM?
CHALLENGES TO THE FOURTH ESTATE ROLE**

ONYEBUCHI JULIANA CHINYERE

Department of Mass Communication
University of Nigeria, Nsukka
Julianaonyebuchi123@Gmail.Com

&

PROF. GREG H. EZEAH

Department of Mass Communication
University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Abstract

Journalism, like other professional careers is guided by codes of ethics which regulates how practitioners (journalists) discharge their duties. Over the years, journalism in Nigeria has been criticised for a number reasons bordering on unethical practices and how they serve government's or owner's interest more than that of the public. This paper will therefore examine the various factors affecting the Nigeria mainstream on their roles as fourth estate of the realm. The study adopted the social responsibility theory. This study was based on qualitative research method and utilised the secondary data in accessing the challenges of journalism practice in Nigeria. The study discovered that pressures from employer, threats of violence against journalists, bribes, gifts and freebies, pressures from family, friends and close associates among others are the various ethical issues in the practice of journalism in Nigeria. Government control of mass media in Nigeria is through regulation, government ownership of media organisations, ownership control by politicians and wealthy individuals, government influence through political pressure and editorial control. The study also discovered that because of the above factors journalists give substantial attention to government activities and political events, journalists may exercise caution when reporting on powerful political actors, political pressure can affect the framing and tone of political reports and certain stories may receive greater prominence. Based on the findings, the study recommends that training and retraining of journalist on the ethics of journalism, as well as highlighting the social implications of violating the ethical codes of the journalism profession.

Introduction

Journalism is the process of gathering, accessing and disseminating information to the public, with major purpose of providing accurate information to enable the audience navigate their daily lives. According to Reinardy (2011) cited in Rabi, Ogande and Aminu (2025), journalism is known for its demanding nature, often requiring long and unpredictable hours, high-stress situations, and the ability to respond quickly to breaking news. “Journalism is a demanding profession, often characterized by irregular schedules, high stress, and unpredictability” (Rabi et al, 2025). Jolaoso, Roleola and Kusherki (2025) reported that in the early years of Nigeria's media, journalism was more than just a career, it was a cause: journalists wielded pens with conviction, driven by a mission far greater than themselves, which was freedom and nation building. However, Aliyu (2024) noted that there are numerous challenges currently bedevilling journalism practice in Nigeria which is why many have faulted the profession especially on ethics and professionalism, corruption, gap between theory and practice, ownership and control of the media, poor remuneration of journalists and the lack of a unified standard of operation.

Beckett and Kyrke-Smith (2007) cited in Aliyu (2024) pointed out that journalists have faced numerous problems including pressure from media owners, and financial weakness with interlinked vulnerability to corruption and declining ethical standards. According to Owens-Ibis & Aondover (2025) cited in Jolaoso et al (2025), Nigeria's media landscape is currently described as broken and beset by professional rivalries, ownership capture, and ethics regulatory void. Obaje and Ebunuwele (2022) cited in Jolaoso et al (2025) revealed that there is now a mad scramble for ratings, and sponsors resulting in accelerated patronage and political sponsorship competitions with no ethical boundaries. Concluding based on this backdrop, Jolaoso et al (2025) asserted that the Nigerian media have reached an ethical cross road. This study however, seeks to assess the challenges of journalism practice in Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Aliyu (2024) reported that the media must operate optimally for meaningful development to be attained in any society. Akpan et al (2022) cited in Ufot, Akarika and Ukpe (2023, p. 91) noted that journalism in Nigeria has continued to expand at a rapid pace in line with worldwide trends. The enactment of the Freedom of Information Act in 2011 not only created high expectations from the public concerning journalism practice, it as well provided a broader window of opportunity to practise unfettered journalism in Nigeria (Alegu & Aliede, 2024).

Notwithstanding, journalism in Nigeria has been faulted in so many areas, including issues bothering on ethics, professionalism, credibility, and finances; as well as issues of ownership and control of media houses, bribery and corruption, censorship, safety, and condition of service (Aliyu, 2024). Oko-Epelle, Oloyode, Kazeem and Kuyoro (2023) reported that journalists in Nigeria had to pursue information to produce thorough, factual, and impartial reporting, putting themselves in a dangerous situation that could result in them being attacked, tortured, or even killed.

This however, pinpoints the various challenges of journalism practice and the ordeals of journalists while discharging their duties in Nigeria. Hence, this study provided a summarised report on the challenges of the journalism profession in Nigeria, as had been reported by other researchers.

Research Objectives

The general objective of the study is examine the various factors affecting the Nigeria mainstream on their role as fourth estate of the realm. Specifically, the study will find out:

1. To determine the various ethical issues in journalism practice in Nigeria
2. To find out the level of governmental or ownership control on the activities of the media
3. To determine how the various factors have influenced the practice of

journalism in Nigeria.

Research Questions

The study is guided by the following research questions:

1. What are the various ethical issues in the practice of journalism in Nigeria?
2. What is the level of governmental or ownership control on the activities of the media?
3. How have the various factors influenced the practice of journalism in Nigeria?

Review of Related Literature

Okocha and Odeba (2022) in their study, attempted to provide the basis for restructuring data-driven reporting among Nigerian journalists by examining its content and practice. The researchers organised focus group discussions of 30 participants, in which the participants attest to the factuality, verifiability, and reliability associated with data-driven journalism, and the challenges associated with it. The researchers found that the reshaping and sustainability of data-driven journalism would hinge on two factors: the first is to intensify data-driven journalism training and research; and the second is for the government to formulate policies or popularise the legislations that guarantee access to data and make data-driven journalism more professional.

Jolaoso et al (2025) in a study that critically examined the Nigerian media landscape and the ethical challenges confronting it and which called for a rethinking of the media ethics structure and adherence culture in Nigeria. The study which was based on a thematic review of historical developments, recent ethical breaches, regulatory documents, Nigerian media codes and relevant literature, highlighted how the erosion of professional solidarity, the rise of public mudslinging among journalists, the long-term impact of the broadcast media deregulation and partisan media

ownership affected ethical standards of the journalism profession. The study identified five key ethical challenges which have not only eroded public trust in the traditional media, but have also breached journalistic autonomy and cultivated a divided media system: professional rivalry; market-driven pressures; ownership influence and political capture; weak enforcement of ethical codes; and news content commercialisation.

In a study that examined media social responsibility and challenges of investigative journalism among media professionals in Osun state, southwest Nigeria, Apata & Ogunwuyi (2019) sought to bridge the gap in knowledge by examining difficulties and challenges towards the dearth of investigative journalism among media professionals in Osun state, to ascertain challenges to the practice of investigative journalism, to know whether there are variations to the practice of investigative journalism in Osun state, and to determine benefits attached to the practice of investigative journalism. The findings from the study indicated that improper implementation of freedom of information act, ownership influence, official secrecy act, lack of fund, threat to lives of media professionals and lack of adequate trainings are impediments to the practice of investigative journalism in Osun state.

Ethical Issues in Nigerian Journalism Practice

Ethical issues within journalism practice in Nigeria are becoming more pronounced, particularly due to its effects with harmful consequences (Jolaoso et al, 2025). Amatu and Nwafor (2022) noted that since the inception of mass media laws and ethics in Nigeria, scholars have been investigating journalists' level of adherence to dictates of the mass media laws and ethics. Their examples included Angese et al. (2014) who conducted a research to assess the adherence to journalism code of ethics by journalists in Bayelsa state, Nigeria; Udoakah et al. (2014) who investigated journalists' adherence to mass media laws and ethics in Akwa Ibom; and Ibituru et al. (2018) who investigated journalists' adherence to mass media laws and ethics in Rivers State.

Apuke (2017) noted that there are “dos” and “don'ts” in journalism, just like every other profession. Despite this, Odionyenma et al. (2023) cited in Jolaoso et al (2025) noted that the Nigerian Press Organisation Code, the Nigerian Union of Journalists Code of Ethics and Broadcast Organisations of Nigeria guidelines suffer from lack of proper enforcement and disregard. There are lots of ethical issues in the practice of journalism in Nigeria, but this study gives attention to the following issues:

Afghanism: this is an unethical act in journalism professions where journalists exert more attention on foreign issues, and ignoring more pressing issues at home in order to divert attention (Apuke, 2017). The Nation (2021) reported that back in 1984, reporting actuality was so fraught under General Muhammadu Buhari that writers and speakers had to devise new ways of telling the stories that needed to be told – hence Nigerian journalists employed the use of Afghanism.

Brown Envelopes Syndrome: This refers to the practice of journalists accepting bribes, often packaged in brown envelopes or other incentives in exchange for favourable coverage or silence on certain issues. Orunbon (2024) noted this practice is synonymous with corruption and unethical practices, and has long been a stain on the reputation of the Nigerian media and has contributed to the loss of trust in the institution.

Okunna (2003) cited in Inegbedion (2025) defined brown envelopes syndrome as a “monetary bribe handed out to an unethical journalist to pressurize him or her into doing what the bribe giver wants.” This is a problem that is gradually taking the place of objectivity thereby jeopardizing the credibility of the profession (Inegbedion, 2025, p. 2). Orunbon (2024) stated that the history of the “brown envelope” culture in Nigeria can be traced back to the 1980s, during a time of political turmoil and economic instability, where many journalists with limited resources and low salaries, turned to accepting bribes as a means of supplementing their income. The practice gained normalisation over time, to the extent that many journalists

started expecting it in certain circles. However, Salihu (2018) reported that the acceptance of brown envelopes, freebies or rewards and gratifications by journalists have been abhorred by media ethicists and journalistic codes of practice.

Crony Journalism

Crony journalism, otherwise known as cronyism according to Hoffman (2007) cited in Inegbedion (2025) is an unethical reporting that treats lightly or ignores negative news about friends or close associates. Roy (2023) defined cronyism as “favouritism shown by the superior to his or her subordinate based on their relationship.” Cronyism, as Roy (2023) reported has become an important in journalism where it is often discussed side by side with other overlapping concepts such as nepotism (preferential treatment given to family members or close friends which compromises journalistic objectivity) and clientelism (a situation whereby politicians use bribes or government advertisements to create loyal media that would compromise editorial independence to suit the demands of the political actors). In some cases, however, media owners are politically affiliated. The often leads to compromises in media objectivity especially in matters that directly or indirectly relates to the media owners or their affiliations.

Objectivity is a core consideration in journalistic reports. But a key aspect of journalism that calls for dialogue is the remuneration, welfare and work conditions of journalists and how this affects their objectivity in reports. Considering the economic situation of the country, inadequacy of pay in a single job is given as the motive for journalists to work for more than one employer, which in most cases, results to what Bittner (1989) cited in Inigbedion (2025) referred to as conflict of interest, where a journalist comes face-to-face with divided loyalties. According to Inigbedion (2025, p. 4), a journalist who is less than careful can find a conflict of interest creeping into daily decision-making, which, if the issue is serious enough can reflect on credibility of their organisation and their profession.

Government Regulations and Censorship of the Media

Oyinloye, Oyegoke, Odion and Ojewumi (2024) reported that censorship incidents in Nigeria underscore the challenges faced by journalists. Aluko and Oloyede (2025) stated that press freedom in Nigeria is facing growing challenges such as restrictive media laws, increased government surveillance and tightening censorship practices. According to them, the introduction of the digital censorship laws and social media restrictions further exacerbated the challenges faced by Nigerian journalists. Instances of regulatory inconsistencies in Nigeria is observable in the arbitrary application of laws and regulations, often targeting media outlets critical to the government (Oyinloye et al, 2024).

Nigerian government censorship of the media is shaped by the government's desire to manage the influence of media platforms on public discourse, politics and social activism (Uchendu, Akin-Odukoya, Falobi, Aondover & Benard, 2025). As Ojebode (2021) and Agbese (2022) reported, notwithstanding that the section 39 of the Nigerian constitution guarantees press freedom, the Nigerian government has continued to enforce laws that suppress press freedom, such as the Cybercrime Act (2015), the Nigerian Press Council Act and the National Broadcasting Code. Aluko and Oloyede (2025) noted that these laws were weaponised against journalists who publish critical reports.

Character Assassination

Character assassination is an unethical practice where journalists damage the reputation of an individual (Asemah, 2011) cited in Apuke (2017). News framing plays a significant role in creating and diverting perceptions on controversial issues (Nahar, Tabassum & Nisa, 2023). Apuke (2017) noted that contemporary issues of character assassination are clearly manifested in three situations: when the media are used to destroy the images of people, as was the case during the case in 2015 during the presidential campaign of PDP where the then First Lady, Dame Patience Jonathan

referred to the presidential candidate of the APC, Muhammadu Buhari as a man without brain; when the media are utilised as a political tool to vilify peoples reputation before the right thinking members of the society, as was the case in 2016 when it was alleged that Peter Odili, the former governor of Rivers state helped Nyesome Wike secure victory in the Supreme Court; and when the media is used in calling people names, as was the case with General Sani Abacha who was referred to “Google Dark Journal” by the media, and in labelling and stereotyping, as evident in contemporary Nigerian societies where Nigerians in southern and eastern parts of the country refer to northerners as Boko Haram.

Theoretical Framework

The study adopted the social responsibility theory. The social responsibility theory according to Daramola (2005) cited in Apata and Ogunwuyi (2019) assumes that whoever enjoys freedom has certain obligations to the society to perform certain function and where media err or shirk its responsibility, other social agencies including government must ensure that the media perform those essential functions. The theory put the control of media content in the hands of media practitioners, who were expected to act in the public interest. put control of media content in the hands of media practitioners, who were expected to act in the public interest (Kumar, 2025). Okunna (2002) cited in Sani (2019, p. 189) noted that the essence of the social responsibility theory is that media have an obligation to their society, the journalist who enjoys freedom should remember that such freedom also carries corresponding responsibility.

The underlying principle of the social responsibility theory according to Sani (2019) is that the media should be free to perform the functions which the Libertarian theory had granted them, but that this freedom should be exercised with responsibility. Instead of advocating strict government control or complete press freedom, the theory struck a balance, by placing ethical responsibility in the hands of media practitioners who, by dictates of

the theory, were expected to work in the public interest while retaining their editorial freedom (Kumar, 2025). The theory believes that if journalists cannot control themselves and act responsibly, then the government should control them (Sani, 2019).

Connected to the study, the theory suggested that although the media reserve the Libertarian freedom to perform their functions, they are bound to ethical responsibility to their host communities, and that the government can interfere to curtail media excesses and put them back on the track of social responsibility. This interference of the government in the operations of the media can pose a great challenge to the practice of journalism, especially in societies like Nigeria, where the media have constantly been used in the past few years as a political tool of the government, in disguise of checkmating media excesses.

Methodology

This study was based on qualitative research method and utilised the secondary data in accessing the challenges of journalism practice in Nigeria. The study used the descriptive research approach to review available literatures, which relates to the objectives of this study. The literatures reviewed for the study touched on areas such as ethical issues in journalism practice in Nigeria, issues of ownership and government control of the media, and how these factors have influenced the practice of journalism in Nigeria.

Findings and Discussions

Research question one: What ethical concerns exist in Nigerian journalism?

Ethical conduct is fundamental to journalism as it ensures accuracy, fairness, and transparency in reporting, however, violations among journalists are a matter of concern globally, as they can undermine the media's credibility and erode public trust (Kamaldeen et al., 2020) cited in Owolabi et al (2024). The ethical decay of journalism is exacerbated by the lack of control over the interaction journalists share with media proprietors,

most of whom are politicians or partisan themselves (Ezugwu, 2024; Okocha & Gupta, 2018) cited in Jolaoso et al (225).

Although issue of ethical violations poses great challenges to the practice of journalism, the big question that needs to be answered is: why do journalists violate journalism codes of ethics? This question was answered in the 2019 edition of “The News Manual: A Professional Resource for Journalists and the Media”. The reasons as to why journalists violate ethical codes were given as follows:

Pressures from Employer

Employers pay employees' salaries and in return, they expect to say how employees do their job. This can lead to ethical issues for journalists. A journalist that works for a government-owned news organisation would have the government as his/her employer. This situation could make it very difficult for such a journalist to report critically on things which the government is doing.

Pressures from Authorities

Both government-owned and commercial news media may face pressure from authority – the government, the police, customs, or some other branch of authority. Sometimes, governments can threaten, or make laws to force all news media to be licensed. This would give them power to grant licences only to those news organisations which please the government.

Threats of Violence against Journalists

Many people try to avoid bad publicity by threatening journalists with violence, or with legal action. Such threats are usually made with the intention of making the journalists conform to the demands of the actor.

Bribes, Gifts and Freebies

Journalists do not usually earn much, and therefore render them vulnerable to bribery – Monetary offer in return for a favourable coverage, ignoring an unfavourable story. Also, commercial companies can sometimes try to buy journalists' friendship by giving them small presents or by giving

them the opportunity to travel at the company's expense – this action is known as freebies.

Pressures from Family, Friends and Close Associates

Journalists are humans, and like most humans, they face conflicts of loyalty resulting from pressures from their families, clan or tribe. It may also be from members of a club or association or church to which a journalist belongs.

Personal Conviction

Journalists may come under pressure from their own strong beliefs. For instance, a journalist who is deeply opposed to capital punishment may be writing a story about crime, and in the course of gathering the information, may interview somebody who calls for the death penalty as the answer to increasing crime. The journalist may be tempted not to report these comments, and to leave the question of capital punishment out of the story, thereby violating the journalism ethical codes.

Research question two: What is the level of governmental or ownership control on the activities of the media?

In Nigeria, this control can be understood as significant but not absolute. The media operate within a pluralistic environment containing government-owned, privately owned, commercial, community, and online media. However, government regulation and ownership interests can substantially influence media activities.

1. Government control through regulation

The Nigerian government exercises control over broadcasting primarily through the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC). The NBC regulates the broadcasting industry, processes broadcasting licence applications, monitors broadcast content, investigates complaints, and enforces provisions of the Broadcasting Code and relevant laws. This means that radio and television stations cannot operate entirely independently of government regulatory structures. They must obtain and maintain

broadcasting licences and comply with regulatory requirements.

2. Government ownership of media organisations

Government also exercises influence through direct ownership of media organisations. Nigeria has historically had federal and state government-owned newspapers, radio stations and television stations. Government ownership can create opportunities for political authorities to influence the appointment of management, financing and editorial direction. Research on Nigerian media has documented the continuing presence of both government-owned and privately owned media.

For example, public broadcasting institutions such as the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) have historically operated within government-established institutional structures.

3. Ownership control by politicians and wealthy individuals

Government is not the only source of control. Private ownership can also influence media content. Some Nigerian media organisations are owned or financially supported by prominent businesspeople and politicians. Academic research identifies political, commercial, regional and other interests as important factors in Nigerian media ownership

4. Government influence through political pressure

Government officials and politicians can also influence journalism through their control over information and access. Research on Nigerian journalists has found that political sources can exert considerable pressure because journalists often depend on politicians and government officials for information and access. This can affect the framing of political news because journalists may need to maintain relationships with important political sources.

5. Economic control

Economic considerations are another important form of ownership control. Media organisations need revenue to survive, and this may come

from advertising, government contracts, subscriptions, sponsorship and other commercial activities. Consequently, owners may encourage coverage that protects their business or political interests. Research on Nigerian media ownership has linked ownership structures and economic conditions to challenges affecting the sustain ability and independence of news organisations.

6. Editorial control

Ownership and government influence can eventually affect editorial independence. An editor may have professional responsibility to report news objectively, but ownership interests, political relationships and economic pressures can influence decisions about what is published or broadcast. This does not mean that every government-owned or privately owned Nigerian media organisation is controlled in every editorial decision. Rather, the research indicates that ownership is an important structural factor that can shape media behaviour and content.

Research question two: How have the various factors influenced the Nigerian journalism practice?

The various factors affecting Nigerian journalism have shaped what journalists report, how they report it, the degree of editorial independence they enjoy, their professional ethics, and the economic conditions under which they work.

Government and political influence

Government and political actors have historically exerted considerable influence on Nigerian journalism. Journalists often depend on government officials and political actors for access to information, official statements and news sources. Research on Nigerian journalists describes this relationship as involving both information dependence and political pressure. Journalists may give substantial attention to government activities and political events. This influence include access to political sources can influence which stories receive prominence, political pressure can affect the

framing and tone of political reports and journalists may exercise caution when reporting on powerful political actors. This does not mean that all Nigerian journalists simply follow government positions; Nigerian journalism also includes extensive investigative, critical and watchdog reporting.

Media ownership

Ownership is one of the most important factors influencing journalism practice in Nigeria. Media organisations may be owned by government, private individuals, corporations or people with political and business interests. Studies of Nigerian media ownership have found that proprietors' political and economic interests can restrict journalists' editorial freedom, particularly when owners have strong political interests.

Economic and financial pressures

Economic conditions have become increasingly important to Nigerian journalism. Rising operational costs, declining advertising revenues, exchange-rate pressures and difficulties in sustaining digital businesses have placed financial pressure on news organisations. The Reuters Institute reported in 2026 that Nigerian media organisations were facing unsustainable costs and declining advertising revenues.

Advertising

Advertising is an important source of revenue for many Nigerian media organisations. Dependence on advertisers can create potential pressure on editorial decisions. Reporters and editors may be cautious about publishing material that could negatively affect major advertisers or important commercial relationships. The 2025 Reporters Without Borders analysis also identified advertising dependence as part of the economic pressure affecting media independence in Nigeria.

Legal and regulatory factors

Journalists operate within a legal and regulatory environment that includes constitutional protections for freedom of expression and the press as

well as laws and regulations affecting media practice. Broadcast journalists, for example, operate within the regulatory framework of the National Broadcasting Commission. Digital journalists also operate within laws affecting online expression.

The legal environment can therefore encourage professional accountability, but laws and their enforcement can also create concerns about press freedom. The Reuters Institute's 2026 report notes continuing concerns about the use of cybercrime-related provisions against journalists and media freedom. Journalists may become more cautious when reporting on government, security agencies, corruption, crime or other sensitive subjects.

Implications for Violations of Journalistic Ethics by Journalists

Azubuikwe and Etumnu (2025) posited that not abiding by the ethics of the journalistic profession portends great danger not only to the profession, but also to the society because their watchdog role will be seriously under question, and when such happens, it will certainly affect development. According to Jolaoso et al (2025), “the issues of ethics within journalism in Nigeria are becoming more pronounced, particularly due to its effects with harmful consequences.”

Researchers are of the suggestion that ethical violations of journalistic codes by journalists strips the media of their public trust. The objectivity and credibility of the media stands to be questions when this becomes the case. While Roy (2023) referred to this situation as a public disservice, Inegbedion (2025) suggested that this situation leads to inaccuracy and misinformation.

Conclusion

According to Sani (2025), the Nigerian media have over the years been accused of varying sins from sensationalism to junk journalism, yet they have also been praised for enthrone democracy. This has examined some the challenges that bedevil the practice of journalism in Nigeria. The study

consulted similar literatures which shared similar objectives. From the information deduced from the literatures, this study concludes that the practice of journalism in Nigeria is laced with series of challenges starting from ethical issues to government or ownership interference in the running of the media.

Recommendations

1. Training and retraining of journalist on the ethics of journalism, as well as highlighting the social implications of violating the ethical codes of the journalism profession.
2. Media independence. An independent media is an objective media. The objectivity of the media can be more assured when the media is handled by professionals, free from government or political affiliations.
3. Review on the remuneration of journalists. It is a widely speculated fact that journalists are underpaid. This however, is a core reason for them to indulge in unethical practices in order to meet up with the economic demands of the contemporary Nigeria society.

References

- Agbese, D. (2022). *The Nigerian media and the state: A history of repression*. Lagos, Nigeria: Press Publications.
- Alegu, J.C. & Aliede, J.E. (2024). Freedom of information act and challenges to journalism practice in south east Nigeria 2015-2019. *TSU Journal of Communication and Media Studies*, 4(1). 154-168.
- Aliyu, R.Y. (2024). The proposed journalism enhancement bill and challenges of journalism practice in Nigeria. *Nasarawa Journal of Multimedia and Communication Studies*, 5(2). 215-225.
- Aluko, E.A. & Oloyede, I.B. (2025). Censorship and security: Impact of media laws and government actions on journalists' safety in

- Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities, Literature and Art Research*, 9(6). 43-61.
- Amatu, C.U. & Nwafor, O.A. (2022). Ethical issues in journalism practice: An assessment of journalists' adherence to mass media laws and ethics in Anambra state, Nigeria. *Mass Media Review*, 4(1). 172-187.
- Apata, K. & Ogunwuyi, S.O. (2019). Media social responsibility and the problematics of investigative journalism among media professionals in Osun state, Nigeria. *Research Journal of Mass Communication and Information Technology*, 5(3). 1-22.
- Apuke, O.D. (2017). Review of some ethical issues in Nigerian journalism practice: Afghanistanism, character assassination and junk journalism. *Global Media Journal – Indian Edition*, 7(2). 1-6.
- Azubuikwe, C. & Etumnu, E.W. (2025). Against the norms: Implications of sycophancy in political reporting among journalists in Owerri Metropolis of Imo State, Nigeria. *International Journal of Sub-Saharan African*, 3(3). 507-520.
- Inegbedion, A. (2025). Cronyism and the brown envelope syndrome in today's journalism: The way forward. *International Journal of Marketing and Communication Studies*, 9(4). 1-13.
- Jolaoso, A.M., Roleola, O.O. & Kusherki, H.U. (2025). Rethinking media ethics adherence and enforcement in Nigeria's media landscape: A call for cultural and structural reform. *International Journal of Intellectual Discourse*, 8(2). 263-272.
- Kumar R. (2025). *Social responsibility theory role in media practice*. Retrieved from: <https://jmcstudyhub.com/social-responsibility-theory-role-in-media-practice/>
- Nahar, M., Tabassum, T. & Nisa, R. (2023). Victim blaming and character assassination: Media framing of controversial issues in Bangladesh. *Informasi*, 53(2). 261-276.

- Ojebode, A. (2021). Media laws and press freedom in Nigeria: A critical analysis. *Journal of Communication Studies*, 22(4). 102-120.
- Okocha, D.O. & Odeba, B. (2022). Data journalism: Placing content and practice among Nigerian journalists. *Covenant Journal of Communication*, 9(1). 65-82.
- Oko-Epelle, L., Oloyede, I.B., Kazeem, A.O. & Kuyoro, P.A. (2023). Freedom of Information Act: Issues and challenges in Nigerian journalism practice. *IMSU Journal of Communication Studies*, 7(1). 72-80.
- Orunbon, A. (2024). *Nigerian journalists and 'Brown Envelopes' syndrome – Matters arising*. Retrieved from: <https://businessday.ng/opinion/article/nigerian-journalists-and-brown-envelopes-syndrome-matters-arising/>
- Owolabi, B.O., Lawrence, O.U., Aderounmu, A.E., Nwafor A.U., Falade, A.J. (2024). Ethical violations among broadcast journalists in Ogun state. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, 8(6). 1922-1937.
- Oyinloye, O., Oyegoke, N.A., Odion, V.E. & Ojewumi, O.O. (2024). Regulation, censorship and media freedom. *African Journal of Social and Behavioural Sciences*, 14(2). 651-670.
- Rabiu, M.S., Ogande, A. & Aminu, A. (2025). Coping with the challenges of journalism practice and family life among select female practitioners in north-central, Nigeria. *International Journal of Sub-Saharan African Research*, 3(1). 138-152
- Roy, D. (2023). Favouritism in media practices and ethical concerns. *International Journal of Multi disciplinary Education and Research*, 8(1). 1-3
- Salihu, M. (2018). Ethical implications of collecting brown envelope by Nigerian journalists. *International Journal of Management and Applied Science*, 4(2). 66-70.

- Sani, B. (2019). Discourse on the social responsibility of journalists and societal development. *Jalingo Journal of Social and Management Sciences*, 1(2). 188-194.
- The Nation Newspapers (2021). 'Afghaistanism' re-considered. Retrieved from The Nation Newspapers Website:
<https://thenationonline.net/afghanistanism-re-considered/>
- The News Manual: A Professional Resource for Journalists (2019). Retrieved from:
https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Manuals%20Volume%203/volume3_58.htm#codes
- Uchendu, C.E., Akin-Odukoya, O.O., Falobi, F., Aondover, P.O. & Benard, L. (2025). Social media regulations and government censorship in Nigeria. *Scientific Journal of Politics*, 5(1). 16-30.
- Ufot, J.O., Akarika, D.C. & Ukpe, A.P. (2023). Media convergence and journalism practice in Nigeria: Issues and challenges. *AKSU Journal of Administration and Corporate Governance*, 3(2). 91-100.