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CHILD RIGHTS AND NIGERIA MEDIA: AN APPRAISAL OF JOURNALISTS' ROLES IN ENUGU STATE

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Abstract

Widespread violations of children's rights take place in Nigeria just like in other emerging democratic societies. In the Northern region of Nigeria, children are denied access to functional education, while in the South, they are trafficked and in some cases branded witches and subjected to hallowing experiences. Nigerian government is signatory to myriads of international treaties on the rights of children. Despite all these laws, children are still deprived of enjoying the full benefits of their rights. There are various and varied opinions on the extent to which the mass media and the practitioners in particular have played manifest roles or otherwise in the promotion of child rights in Nigeria. In an effort to bring this debate to the fore and help resolve this debacle, this study was initiated. Research questions were raised and hypotheses formulated accordingly. Survey research method and descriptive research designs were adopted in the execution of this research. The study population was the entire journalists in Enugu metropolis; while a sample size of 150 journalists were randomly selected from media organisations and print media correspondents in Enugu metropolis. The questionnaire was adopted as the measuring instrument for the study. Findings show that journalists in Enugu State are aware of the existence of child right to a great extent, that journalists and their media organisations pay adequate attention to issues pertaining to child rights and that there is a relationship between media promotion of child right issues and public compliance with the provision of the Child Rights Act. Based on the findings, the researcher recommended among others that journalists should be constantly retrained on new dimensions as it pertains to the promotion of child rights through societal media.

Key Words: Child Rights, Violation, Media, Appraisal, Journalists' Roles

Introduction

Since 1959, several international documents had sought to achieve the aims of protecting the rights of children. Such laws include: League of Nations Declaration of the Right of Child, 1924, United Nations Declaration of the Rights and Welfare of the African Child, 1979 and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Also, the mass media have been attributed with the power to bring out issues to public knowledge, thereby affording the mass audience the opportunity of contributing to debates, policy formulation and societal change in any society. Again, the media play a significant role in forming and influencing people's attitudes and behaviour. One of such issue that demands the attention of the media is that of child abuse and neglect. This may account for why Goddard and Saunders (2001) in a paper on Child Abuse and the Media drew attention to the essential role of the media in increasing society's awareness of, and response to, child abuse and neglect. According to them, "of particular note was the part played by news and features that reported on specific child abuse cases, research and intervention strategies."

Accordingly, media attention to child abuse has, at times, positively influenced public, professionals and political responses to the circumstances in which children and young people find themselves. Brawler (1995) lends credence to the foregoing where he states that understanding media influences, and how to use the media constructively, may thus be an essential tool for those who advocate for children, young people, and their families.

In addition to news stories, feature articles, and investigative journalism, sporadic mass media education and prevention campaigns when launched will go a long way at informing the masses of the dangers of child abuse. This is because these campaigns usually meant to broaden community knowledge of child abuse and neglect, to influence people's attitudes towards children and young people, and to change behaviours that contribute to, or precipitate, the problem of child abuse and neglect in our communities.

For several reasons, however, the effectiveness of these campaigns remains contentious. Primarily, the effectiveness of mass media in the prevention of child abuse and neglect is debatable. For example, Rayner (1996) argues that 'media campaigns are bloody expensive' and their impact is difficult to determine. Expensive media campaigns may be hard to justify in a political climate where limited funds and resources are provided to address children's needs. Further, McDevitt (1996, p.270) cites O'Keefe and Reed (1990: 215) to note that at best, the media are "effective at building citizen awareness of an issue" but more complex attitudinal or behavioural change requires "more direct forms of citizen contact and intervention".'

Others argue, however, that mass media campaigns and media coverage of the abuse and neglect of children perform an important and significant role in placing issues such as child abuse on the public and political agenda. Lindsey (1994) maintains that “the media has a central role in mediating information and forming public opinion and casting an eye on events that few of us directly experience and renders remote happenings observable and meaningful.” As Wurtele and Miller-Perrin (1993) have observed, media coverage of child sexual assault has contributed to demystifying and reducing the secrecy that has characteristically surrounded its occurrence. Melkote and Steeves (2001) noted that mass media play the role of a catalyst to bring about change in development process.

Unfortunately, the incidence and prevalence of child abuse and neglect in Nigeria seem to be on the increase with its attendant consequences despite the legion of laws, statutes and acts that are promulgated by the government and international organizations.

The United Nations (1990) observed the following: 100 million children subsist only by engaging in backbreaking work, petty crime, prostitution, or begging. Over 50 million children work under unsafe or unhealthy conditions, 120 million children between the ages of six and eleven are deprived of schooling, some 3.5 million children die from preventable or curable diseases, some 115 million children under five years in developing countries live in conditions of absolute poverty, untold millions of children are maltreated, neglected, sexually exploited or become victims of drug abuse.

Although there were varieties of laws regulating the rights of children before 2003, such laws were; the 1999 constitution, chapter IV; the Children and Young Persons Law; the Criminal Code Laws in the South and Penal Code in the North; Adoption of Children Laws in some Southern states and Abuja; Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Law and Enforcement and Administration Act 2003, just to mention a few. The list of such laws cannot be exhausted as some states have also put in place different laws that regulate the rights of children. Moreso, there are some international treaties affecting the rights of children.

Accordingly, it becomes pertinent to critically evaluate the role the mass media practitioners have played in the promotion of child rights in a country like Nigeria where as any other developing society of the world; fundamental human rights are grossly abused.

Problem of the Study

Nigerian government is signatory to myriads of international treaties on the rights of children. The National Assembly has also domesticated a number of those treaties with some state governments following suit.

However, despite all these laws, children are still being deprived from enjoying the full benefits of their rights. For instance, no week passes without radio TV or newspaper report of children being raped or sold.

Widespread violations of children's rights take place in Nigeria just like in other emerging democratic societies. In the Northern region of Nigeria, children are denied access to functional education, in the South, they are trafficked and in some cases branded witches and subjected to hallowing experiences.

The deeply held belief in child 'witches' also has a significant negative effect on children's rights. These children often suffer frequent violations of their rights to be free from torture, violence and abuse. Children who have been stigmatized as witches are usually rejected or abandoned by their families and communities.

The problem of this study is straightforward: There are various and varied opinions on the extent to which the mass media, and the media practitioners in particular have played manifest roles or otherwise in the promotion of child rights in Nigeria especially with the enactment of the Child Right Act by the National Assembly in 2003 and other Conventions on Child Rights in which Nigeria is a signatory. Day by day, the rights of the children are being grossly abused. If this trend is not corrected, it will undermine the position of children as leaders of tomorrow. In an effort to bring this debate to the market place of ideas and help resolve this debacle that this study was initiated.

Objectives of the Study

The following objectives were drawn to direct the research process:

a. To identify the extent to which journalists are aware of the existence of child rights.
b. To ascertain the extent to which journalists pay attention to issues pertaining to child rights in Enugu
c. To find out the extent to which journalists make effort to educate the public about child right issues.
d. To check if there is a relationship between media promotion of child right issues and public compliance with the provisions of the Child Right Act.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised:

i. To what extent are journalists aware of the existence of child rights?
ii. To what extent do journalists pay attention to issues pertaining to child rights?
iii. To what extent do journalists make effort to educate the public about child right issues?
iv. Is there a relationship between media promotion of child right issues and public compliance with the provisions of the Child Right Act?

Research Hypotheses

The following null and alternate hypotheses were formulated to serve as guide to for the researchers:

Hypothesis One

$H_{0:}$ Journalists promotion of child right in Enugu state is dependent on (or related to) their level of knowledge on the issue

Hypothesis Two

H_0: Media promotion of Child Right issues is independent on public compliance with the provision of the Child Right Act.

CONCEPTUAL AND THEORETICAL REVIEW

The Child and Childhood

Children's rights are claims that all children have for survival development, protection and participation as members of the larger society. Therefore, all children should have welfare rights or protection rights, such as right to survival and adequate standard of living and, in fact, have more welfare rights than adults. Mosby's Medical Dictionary (2009) defines a child as a person of either sex between the time of birth and adolescence.

Wesley (1993, p.210) while making clarification on different categories of a child, stated that a very young child under the age of about 18 months is a baby or (more formally) an infant. A child who has just learned to walk is a toddler. A child up to the age of 9 or 10 is sometimes a little girl or little boy; and a girl or a boy can be used about anyone up to the age of about 20. However, someone aged between 13 and 19 may prefer to be called a teenager or a young woman or young man.

According to Article 2 of Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA),enacted in Eastern, Western and Northern regions of Nigeria, a "'child' means (a) person under the age of fourteen, while 'young person' means a person who has attained the age of fourteen years and is under the age of seventeen years" (Jacomy and Stevens, 2004:9). In the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is every human being below the age of eighteen years. Similarly, The Nigerian Child Rights Act (2003), passed into law the House of Assembly, defines a child as a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years. The general conception of a child then seems to limit it below 18 years of age.

According to UNICEF (2005, p.3), childhood means much more than just the space between birth and the attainment of adulthood; it refers to "the state and condition of a child's life: to the quality of those years". It follows then that a child who has been kidnapped for example, by a paramilitary group and compelled to bear arms or forced into sexual slavery cannot have a childhood, nor can a child put to hard labour in a garment factory in the capital city, far from family and home village. Similarly, children living in abject poverty without adequate food, access to education, safe water, sanitation facilities and shelter are also deprived of childhood.

This definition of childhood is based on human rights and it is reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children are neither the possession of parents nor of the State, nor are they mere 'people-in-the-making'; they have equal status as members of the human family. In other words, children have needs similar to those of adults and thus have similar rights like any other human being. Children however rely on adults for the nurture and guidance they need to grow towards independence. Such nurture is ideally found in the children's families, but when primary care-givers cannot provide children's needs, society is expected to fill the gap.

Child Rights

The debate on 'rights' has a long history in the Western world. Its foundations can be traced back at least as far as discussions of natural law among Greek and Romans stoics (Tisdall and Hill, 1997). These discussions were revived, expanded and modified by such philosophers as Locke and Paine who argued for the links between natural rights, individualism and liberty.

Tisdall and Hill (2001) note that rights are fundamental and universal thus overriding other values because they are natural and are of divine creation. However, there are those who believe that rights are socially or legally constructed rather than natural or God-given (Jones, 1994). Some would say that rights are inextricably linked to a particular society, and are thus the idea that rights can be universalized across societies is incorrect. Those who believe that certain rights are universal posit that the concept of human rights has largely replaced that of natural rights, thus avoiding the theological foundation of most natural rights theories. They rely on a concept of basic human needs to provide the basis for human rights (MacConnick, 1982; Freeden, 1991; Eekelaar, 1992). In the opinion of Charles and Webb (1986, p.1), “these needs are said to be irrefutable, and equally so fundamental, it may be misguide, that they should be treated as a social right and society should accept a duty to provide them to all citizens.”

Many distinctions have been made in relation to rights. A useful distinction is made between legal and moral rights. Legal rights are those set out in law, which are thus enforceable. Moral rights are not freedom. Political rights involve participation 111 the exerc1se of political power. The social rights range from ensuring a 'modicum of economic welfare and security to the right to share to the full in the social heritage' (Marshall, 1963, p.4). The relationship among claims, duties and rights is another consideration:

> A right is a legal capacity in one person to control or limit or require an act of another. The right resides with the first person, the duty with the second. Rights are about obligation, an obligation fixed in law or fought for on moral and legal grounds, a duty placed on someone other than the rights-holder Rights establish and support relationships (McGillivray, 1994, p.354).

Whether someone can have a right without someone else having a corresponding duty has been the subject of much debate (Dworkin, 1978; MacCorrnick, 1982; Olsen, 1992).

With some rights, it is relatively easy to identify who is the duty-holder and what the duty is. For instance, a child may have a right to its parent's care and supervision. The child has the right; the parent has the duty; and the duty is for care and supervision.However, with some rights, identifying the duty and duty-holder can be more difficult. A child may have a right to adequate standard of living, but who has the duty to provide the adequate standard. There are those who believe that children had no right (Tisdall and Hill, 1997). For example, Hobbes posited that children have established in law, but are put forward as what ought to be. Marshall (1963) also identified three types of rights, namely civil, political and social. Civil rights are defined as those necessary for individual natural rights and are under the absolute subjection of their parents.

Locke however, opposed that saying that children have natural rights but only adults are fully rational. Thus, parents have authority over children and the corresponding responsibility to educate children into reason. Purdy (1994) believes that children should have no equal rights with adult. She argued that rationality is important because a society where people behave intelligently and morally clearly works better and is more enjoyable to live in than one where they do not. She believes that societal problems arising from inadequacies of adults are enough to grapple with and the situation would only be compounded if adults' rights are extended to children. Therefore, all children should have welfare rights or protection rights, such as right to survival and adequate standard of living and, in fact, have more welfare rights than adults.

Children's rights are claims that all children have for survival development, protection and participation. The Child Development Department of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria (1995, p.5), lists the basic principles of Children's rights:

- Every child has the right to life and be allowed to survive and develop
- Every child is entitled to a name, family and nationality.
- Every child is free to belong to any association or assembly according to the law.
- Every child has the right to express opinions and freely communicate them on any issues subject to restriction under the law.
- Every child is entitled to protection from any act that interferes with his or her privacy, honour, and reputation.
- Every child is entitled to adequate rest, recreation (leisure and play) according to his or her age and culture.
- Every child (male or female) is entitled to receive compulsory basic education and equal opportunity for higher education depending on individual ability.
- Every child is entitled to good health, protection from illness and proper medical attention for survival, personal growth and development.
- Every child must be protected from indecent and inhuman treatment through sexual exploitation, drug abuse, child labour, torture, maltreatment and neglect.
- No child should suffer any discrimination irrespective of ethnic origin, birth, colour, sex, language, religion, political and social beliefs, status or disability.

Media Role in Protection and Promotion of Child Right

While communication is central to development, the media of mass communication play active role in that process because of their efficiency in information spread. Melkote and Steeves (2001) noted that mass media play the role of a catalyst to bring about change in development process. Deane et al (2002) stipulate that the mass media are fundamental to development. According to these scholars, the mass media enable people to learn about issues as well as make their voices heard. They can exert a powerful influence, for good or for ill. Free, independent press are important to ensure freedom of speech (guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights), promote democracy, good governance, peace and humanrights, combat poverty and crime, inform people about issues and enable them to participate in public debate.

Conversely, Okigbo (199I) notes that the print media can contribute to development by disseminating truth and useful information, correlating the parts of society and sensitizing (or conscientizing) the people to the need for planned development and social change. Other important functions of the print media in

development process are persuasion, motivation, providing learning materials and appropriate development information for educated members of the society.

Media also shape public opinion and influence public policy. Graves (2007), citing Jaime Abello Banfi, notes that media are used to give voice to marginalized groups, such as women and ethnic and religious minorities, as well as to promote their rights. In Burundi, for example, the association BonSem produces a weekly radio show and publishes a newsletter designed to encourage discussion about how civil society can work for the political and economic inclusion of the marginalized Twa communities.

Sustainable development demands that people participate in the debates and decisions that affect their lives. They need to be able to receive information. But also to make their voices heard. The social impact of media includes improving the quality of education, informing the public about health threats and safe practices to avoid them, serving local communities by bringing attention to their needs, and in times of disaster, providing information and sources of assistance to people displaced from their homes (Graves, 2007).

Article 17 of the Convention on the rights of the child specifies the role the media should play in the promotion and protection of children's rights (UNICEF, 2002:65-66). The Committee on the Rights of the Child (1996) believes that the media-both written and audio visual-are highly important in efforts to make reality the principles and standards of the Convention. The point being made is that the media can play a pivotal role in monitoring the actual implementation of the rights of the child.

The media are powerful because they penetrate every segment of modem-day society and effectively influence how people view themselves, their neighbours, their communities and their world.

Media representations are the primary source of information on social problems for many people (Hutson and Liddiard, 1994). Maley (2000, p.37) for instance, notes that "In social and cultural matters, the various media provide the main platforms of debate, and their choices of subjects, participants and opinions shape the agenda and much of its content." The media play a significant role in forming and influencing people's attitudes and behaviour (Brawley, 1995).

Goddard and Saunders (2001), draw attention to the essential role of the media in increasing the society's awareness of, and response to, child abuse and neglect. In their own opinion, news and features could be used to report child abuse cases, research and intervention strategies. Such media attention to child abuse can positively influence public opinion, professional and political responses to the circumstances in which children and young people find themselves. Ericson, Baranek and Chan (1987, p.3)observe that journalists play a major role in constructing what is considered "deviant" in our society and, therefore, what is "normal". Journalists do not merely reflect the work of others who define deviance and attempt to control it, but are themselves in some ways agents of social control; they are "a kind of deviance defining elite" who articulates the "proper bounds to behaviour" in our society.

In addition to news stories, feature articles and investigative journalism, sporadic mass media education and prevention campaigns could be launched. These campaigns will broaden community's knowledge of child abuse and neglect, influence people's attitudes towards children and young people and change behaviours that contribute to, or precipitate the problem of child abuse and neglect in our communities.

Though it has been argued that complex attitudinal or behavioural change requires more direct forms of citizen contact and intervention, the media at least are effective in building citizen awareness of an issue (McDevitt, 1996; O'Keefe, and Reed, 1990; Saunders and Goddard, 2002; Reger, Wootan and Booth-Butterfield, 2000; Freimuth, Cole and Kirby 2001). Besides, mass media campaigns and coverage of the rights of children perform a significant role in placing the relevant issues on the public and political agenda.

Although the causes of child abuse and neglect have not been given adequate attention apart from the abuses itself, Child welfare professionals and academics have advised the media internationally to report on the underlying causes of child abuse and neglect (Kitzinger, 1996).

Lindsey (1994, p.163) also asserts that: "media has a central role in mediating information and forming public opinion. The media casts an eye on events that few of us directly experience and renders remote happenings observable and meaningful".

Parajuli (2004) also notes that the media can bring forth children's issues by allowing children who have been working (in the worst form) as domestic servants, on the streets, in factories and mines/quarries as well

as those rehabilitated from any organization to participate in their media programme. He adds that children, being the future of a country, must be provided with education, socialized, motivated and equipped with all the basic necessities for their personality development. In this connection, the rights of the children like education, health, communication, participation physical and moral support are some of the major components for their well-being. So, the media have to raise the awareness of children's situation to the concerned NGOs or government. In other words, mass media education and child rights campaigns present one means of breaking the cycles of suppression and denial.

The way people perceive the cases of child abuse is a function of media presentation. Sara Niner, Yarina Ahmad and Denise Cuthbert (2013) while talking about over-representation of the relatively rare, horrific incidents of child abuse and effects of the use of episodic framing in their research '*the 'social tsunami': Media coverage of child abuse in Malaysia's English-language newspapers in 2010*', concluded that Media content analysis of *TS* and the *NST* patterns both distort the reality of child abuse in Malaysia in a number of ways and do little to reveal the underlying causes of abuse. It means a deeply complex situation is reduced and reported in simple good and evil scenarios. In these scenarios it is not grinding poverty, social disadvantage, social isolation, mental illness or discrimination that are at fault but the simple equation of one evil individual taking advantage of a vulnerable child. This, in their thinking produces a lack of understanding, moral outrage or panic, which leads to simplistic or inappropriate solutions and yet no doubt sells many newspapers.

Theoretical Framework

In any academic research, theory gives the study relevant theoretical support. This is based on the fact that the theoretical framework serves as the pillar that holds the research together.

Kerlinger (1964, p.9) quoted in Okenwa (2002, p.14) sees a theory as "a set of interrelated constructs, (concepts) definitions, and propositions that present a systematic view with the purpose of explaining and predicting the phenomena". Writing on the relevance of theories to empirical studies, Okenwa (2004, p.15) explains that "theories examine various aspects of the communication phenomena with the purposed of helping to enhance the understanding of mass communication situations. Such situations include the examination of human attitudes, behaviours and habits, how and why they differ."

For the purpose of this study, two of theories that are best suited for this paper are the *agenda setting* and *framing theories*.

The agenda-setting theory holds that the media have the ability to advise or tell the audience what issues are major and relevant, thus setting the agenda. This theory further posits that the media can achieve this by choosing what stories to consider newsworthy and how much prominence and space they give those stories (Folarin, 1998).

In other words, this theory explains that the mass media through their presentation of event(s) and the kind of information selected for publication ascribe prominence to the stories selected. The underlining assumption is that the mass media, through the media practitioners force public attention to child rights issues; they constantly present the issues, suggest how the audience should think about the rights of children.

Media framing theory suggests that how something is presented (the "frame") influences the choices people make. Framing can be employed by the journalists to control and direct how its child rights issues can be perceived by the differential publics. Framing is defined by Lee and Maslog (2005:31) as the process of organizing media content thematically, stylistically and sometimes factually to convey a specific story line or idea. In a similar vein, Tewksbury (2007, p.11) observes that framing is anchored on the basic assumption that how an issue is characterized and presented by the media can have an influence on how it is perceived and understood by audiences.

The implications of the foregoing is that media framing influences the audience on how to think about child rights issues, and does have significant consequences on how they perceive a child rights phenomenon.

This research is therefore premised on the reality that through constant portrayal of issues pertaining to Child Rights over the media, the journalists influences the attitudes, perception, beliefs and behaviours of the public positively towards the rights of the child and in the process achieve its overall objective and goal of changing the mindset of Nigerians over the way they treat children.

Methodology

Survey research method was adopted based on the nature of this research, and to effectively test all the variables in the research. Evaluating the role of the media in the promotion of child rights in Enugu, calls for a research method that will give the researcher an opportunity to extract quantitative primary data from media practitioners who are actually involved in the business of reportage and media programming. Therefore, this research method adopted is most appropriate for this study.

The research, according to the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), Enugu State Council, has a population of 300 practicing journalists in Enugu state, particularly those that are registered with the Enugu State Council of NUJ, and are working in the media located in Enugu metropolis as at the time of this research.

Area of Study

The area of study for this research was Enugu metropolis. Enugu metropolis is made up of different residential areas in parts of Enugu North, Enugu South and Enugu East Local Government Areas that make up the Enugu metropolis.

In this research, 50% of the population, based on Nwanna's formula was taken. Nwanna recommended a 50% sample frame for a population of few hundreds. Therefore, 300/=150 desired sample size. Quota sampling frame was adopted in the distribution as presented on *Table 1* below.

Table I: Distribution of Research Samples

Media Affiliation	**Sample**	**Percentage**
Print journalists	30	20%
ESBS, (Sunrise FM, *96.1 FM)*&(ETV, *Channel 50)*	35	23.3%
NTA, (*Channel 8)*	35	23.3%
Dream FM, *95.2 FM*	5	3.3%
Radio Nigeria, (*92.9FM)*	35	23.3%
Solid FM, *92.5 FM*	5	3.3%
AIT	5	3.3%
Total	**150**	**100%**

The questionnaire was adopted as the measuring instrument. The hypotheses formulated were tested using the data collected. Tabulation and simple percentages mathematical tools were used in the presentation of data. Consequently, chi-square statistical measure was used in testing the hypotheses.

Hypotheses Testing

The researchers used Chi-square formula as the statistical instrument for testing the hypotheses

$$X^2 = \sum \frac{(fo - fe)^2}{fe}$$

Where fo = observed frequency

fe = expected frequency

$\sum$ = summation

X^2 = chi-square or calculated value.

Hypothesis One

$H_{0:}$ Journalists promotion of child right in Enugu state is dependent on (or related to) their level of knowledge on the issue

Table II: Chi-Square Computed Test for Hypothesis One

Responses	***Fo***	***Fe***	***Fo - Fe***	$(Fo - Fe)^2$	$\frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$
To a great extent	130	67.5	62.5	3906.25	57.9
To a small extent	5	67.5	-62.5	-3906.25	-57.9
Total		**135**			**115.8**

$X^2 = 115.8$

$$X^2 = \frac{(130 - 67.5)^2}{67.5} + \frac{(5 - 67.5)^2}{67.5}$$

$$X^2 = 57.9 + -57.9 = 115.8$$

X^2 (calculated value) = 115.8 (table value) = 7.815, degree of freedom (df) = 1, P = 0.05.

Since the calculated value of 115.8 is greater than the table value of 7.815 at 3 degree of freedom and at 0.05 level of significance, the researcher accepted the research hypothesis. This in essence implies that Journalists promotion of child right in Enugu state is dependent on (or related to) their level of knowledge on the issue.

Hypothesis Two

H_0: Media promotion of Child Right issues is independent on public compliance with the provision of the Child Right Act.

Table III: Chi-Square Computed Test for Hypothesis Two

Responses	***Fo***	***Fe***	***Fo - Fe***	$(Fo - Fe)^2$	$\frac{(Fo - Fe)^2}{Fe}$
Yes	120	67.5	52.5	2756.25	40.8
No	15	67.5	-52.5	-2756.25	-40.8
Total	**135**	**135**			**81.6**

$X^2 = 81.6$

$$X^2 = \frac{(120 - 67.5)^2}{67.5} + \frac{(15 - 67.5)^2}{67.5}$$

$$X^2 = 40.8 + -40.8 = 81.6$$

X^2 (calculated value) = 81.6 (table value) = 7.815, degree of freedom (df) = 1, P = 0.05.

Since the calculated value of 104.8 is greater than the table value of 7.815 at 3 degree of freedom and at 0.05 level of significance, the researcher accepted the hypothesis. The implication of this is that Media

promotion of Child Right issues is independent on public compliance with the provision of the Child Right Act.

Discussion of Findings

In this section, the results obtained from the test of the three raised hypotheses are discussed.

In hypothesis one, it was tested to ascertain if Journalists' promotion of child right in Enugu state is dependent on (or related to) their level of knowledge on the issue.

X^2 (calculated value) = 115.8 (table value) = 7.815, degree of freedom (df) = 1, P = 0.05. Since the calculated value of 115.8 is greater than the table value of 7.815 at 3 degree of freedom and at 0.05 level of significance, the researcher accepted the research hypothesis. This in essence implies that Journalists promotion of child right in Enugu state is dependent on (or related to) their level of knowledge on the issue.

The test revealed that indeed most of the journalists whose opinion was sought are conversant with the existence of child right in Nigerian society. This was further made evident by the fact that out of 135 respondents, 130 (96.3%) were of the view that they are conversant with child right as against 5 (3.7%) that were not.

In hypothesis two, the aim was to determine if Media promotion of Child Right issues is independent on public compliance with the provision of the Child Right Act.

X^2 (calculated value) = 81.6 (table value) = 7.815, degree of freedom (df) = 1, P = 0.05. Since the calculated value of 104.8 is greater than the table value of 7.815 at 3 degree of freedom and at 0.05 level of significance, the researcher accepted the hypothesis.

Interestingly, the result of the test showed that Media promotion of Child Right issues is independent on public compliance with the provision of the Child Right Act.

Findings

Key findings of this research are hereunder summarized.

i. Research affirmed that the media are veritable tools for promoting child rights. Consequently, radio is mostly preferred in trying to promote child rights. However, Multimedia approach remains the best strategy in promoting child rights.
ii. Research data shows that children's' rights have been grossly abused in Nigeria over the years.
iii. Media practitioners have been actively involved in promoting children rights in Enugu metropolis. However, their involvement level has not been ascertained by the audience members.
iv. Journalists promotion of child right in Enugu state is dependent on (or related to) their level of knowledge on the issue
v. Evidence from research data shows Media promotion of Child Right issues is independent on public compliance with the provision of the Child Right Act
vi. Statistical evidence from the research data reveal that the media stations within Enugu metropolis do have programmes that seek to promote the child rights.

Recommendations

Premised on evidences from research data, the following recommendations are made:

a) The media, particularly the print members should use their various platforms to condemn child abuses while using editorials, cartoons, features and other content categories to promote the rights of the Nigeria child.

b) To effectively and successfully promote child rights, efforts of many parties must be combined to achieve this target. They are; the private sector, the government, international NGOs, and the local community. To complete the whole circle, each one has a very important role to play. This they should do through the provision of technical support, qualified human resources and funds as much as they could.

c) The government should urgently support the media activities that are geared towards the promotion of child rights, by making sure that such activities are aired through the national TV and Radio channels such as Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN). They could also support the private media stations, since advertisers may not readily support such programmaes through sponsorship.

d) Non Governmental Organisations should partner with Nigeria media to turn this concept from its abstractiveness into a concrete reality by establishing projects that combines several media activities that should promote child rights.

e) It is also recommended thatjournalists should be constantly retrained on new dimensions as it pertains to the promotion of child rights through societal media.

f) The Nigeria broadcast media must as a matter of utmost importance, dedicate more of their airtime to programmes that seek to promote the rights of the Nigerian child. News programmes, Talk shows, Documentaries, Dramas and Commentaries should be packaged in this regard. This they should do as a social responsibility task to Nigeria, bearing in mind that the children are the future of Nigeria.

g) The private sector in Nigeria like the Dangote Groups, the Otedolas, the Dantatas can support child rights promotion by funding activities related to it through the various medeia channels. This they should incorporate into their social responsibilty function.

Conclusion

The Following the discussions of results and observations in the field, the researcher has come to the conclusion that, using media to promote child rights can be very powerful, particularly with the advent modern globalised technology. Using the media can give us the chance to present the problems children are facing in developing societies like Nigeria, and consequently advocate for their rights not only on the national plane, but also on the international arena. Once the media have been well positioned in promoting and protecting child rights, they will now be pacesetters to deliver a development education message to the other countries in the whole world regarding the problems children are facing and the violation their rights are subjected to. That will be the only panacea to receive support from various international NGOs working in the area of human rights.

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