

**AN EVALUATION OF NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN SELECTED NIGERIAN NEWSPAPERS**

BY

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AUTHOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is done in accordance with the regulation of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka for the award of Master of Science Degree in Mass Communication, and that it is an original research work done by me. Where other people's works were used, references were made to them in this work.

Egbo, Godwin Chijioke

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this thesis, “ An Evaluation of Newspaper Coverage of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children in Selected Nigerian Newspapers” submitted to the faculty of Social Sciences, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, for the award of the Master of Science Degree in Mass Communication, is a record of original research carried out by Egbo, Godwin Chijioke in the Department of Mass Communication.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my beloved wife, Ifeoma and my son, Chinyeaka.

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I wish to express my profound gratitude to my wife, Ifeoma whose encouragement always infused strength into me to tackle this work.

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Egbo, Godwin Chijioke
Awka,
November, 2011.

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ABSTRACT

The research work whose topic is " An Evaluation of Newspaper Coverage of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children in Selected Nigerian Newspapers" is therefore aimed at appraising the extent of Nigerian newspapers' contribution in tackling the problem of sexual violence against women and children. The study answers three research questions: Do newspapers give prominence to sexual violence stories? How often do newspapers report sexual violence issues? Do newspapers report sexual violence more as features than as straight news, editorial or letters to editors? Coding schedule was used as the measuring instrument for data collection. Selected sample of three Nigerian newspapers were studied. Content Analysis is the research method used in the work. The study revealed that the contribution of Nigeria Newspapers in tackling the problem of sexual violence against women and children is not impressive; that is premised on the following findings: They do not give prominence to sexual violence stories. They could have done that by adequately placing them on the front pages. They do not frequently report sexual violence. They do not amply utilize features in presenting sexual violence stories. Doing that could entail analysing the facts of the stories and injecting emotional slant to them to precipitate public outcry against the problem. Recommendation was made in the work that women organizations should set up newspapers which would be their mouth piece against sexual violence. Also, recommended, but for further study, is that investigation be carried to ascertain the extent of contribution of Nigerian Newspapers in fighting sexual violence against the male gender (sodomy).

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The traditional role of the media in the society is likened to a watchdog. The media have taken the place of sentinels who in the olden days scanned the environment and reported dangers to the people. As the watchdog of the society, the media do surveillance of the society and report their findings to the public. Dominick (1987,p.32), groups the surveillance function of the media into warning or beware surveillance which he said occurs when the media inform us about threats from hurricanes, erupting volcanoes, depressed economic conditions, increasing inflation or military attack. The other one is instrumental surveillance which has to do with transmission of information that is useful and helpful in everyday life.

The surveillance function of the media underlines newspaper coverage of sexual violence against women and children which is the theme of this study. Sexual violence is an anti-social behaviour that has negative consequences for the victims in particular and the society in general. It refers to sexual exploitation, violation or molestation which could involve physical harm, penetration, verbal expression or gesture which its recipient or victim considers unacceptable and offensive. It infringes on physical and mental integrity of the victim. Therefore, media's social responsibility to the society places a duty on them to inform and

provoke public awareness, debate and policy responses for tackling the problem of sexual violence in our country.

The media have the capacity to modify or shape attitudes. They can therefore be veritable tools for combating sexual violence. The media are expected to take a firm stand that should depict condemnation of sexual violence, agitation for tough measures against its perpetrators and encouragement of support for its victims.

The serious threat of sexual violence to the social, physical and mental well-being of women and children who have become victims and the fact that if that evil is not challenged, the damage it does will go on, calls for media's onslaught against it and newspaper is the most suitable medium to carry this out. The reason is because newspaper is targeted at the averagely educated people and so it is widely circulated, it is published daily and its contents are permanent and so can be referred to and therefore the knowledge it offers sustained.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The effect of sexual violence can be devastating to its victims. Feminist organizations, some human rights and civil society organizations and concerned individuals, have put up various measures in challenge to that social menace that has put mostly the female gender and children in danger. The battle against it should be fought from all fronts and with seriousness. The Nigerian press (newspaper) is expected to play a significant role by amplifying the voices of anti-sexual violence crusaders and through its instrumental surveillance role, bring to public notice cases of sexual violence.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

This research is primarily to ascertain the extent of contribution of newspapers in tackling the problem of sexual violence against women and children. This study therefore, evaluates the level of attention or degree of coverage of sexual violence by Nigerian newspapers.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study examines Nigerian newspapers' reportage of sexual violence with the aim of ascertaining the volume of reports of various forms of sexual violence and the profile of perpetrators. Also, the study takes note of the placement (grading) of sexual violence stories and also the forms of newspaper reportage in which they are featured.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- 1: Do newspapers give prominence to sexual violence stories?
- 2: How often do newspapers report sexual violence issues?
- 3: Do newspapers report sexual violence more as features than as straight news, editorial or letters to editors?.

1.6 RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

The following research hypotheses are put forward for testing of the research questions:

H0: Newspapers do not give prominence to sexual violence stories.

H1: Newspapers give prominence to sexual violence stories.

H0: Newspapers do not very often report sexual violence issues.

H2: Newspapers very often report sexual violence issues.

H0: Newspapers do not report sexual violence more as features than as straight news, editorial or letters to editors.

H3: Newspapers report sexual violence more as features than as straight news, editorial or letters to editors.

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This work by appraising the performance of Nigeria newspapers in their watchdog role as regards their reportage on sexual violence against women and children can awaken the consciousness of operators of newspaper organizations and journalists to their obligation to the society.

Moreover, by articulating figures and other issues related to sexual violence as reported by the newspapers, the public can understand and appreciate the seriousness of that vice (sexual violence).

Also, this study is of benefit to students, teachers and researchers of mass communication as it is a material for academic exercise.

1.8 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The study is limited to sexual violence against women and children. Not including sexual violence against adult males (sodomy) and animals (bestiality), is for the purpose of making it realizable for one researcher in terms of cost and time.

Moreover, mass media are many that articulating their coverage of issues on sexual violence against women and children will be too exacting to accomplish. Therefore, this work is limited to newspaper coverage of the subject matter.

The study is also restricted to coverage of sexual violence against women and children by only three national dailies in 2009 (July to December). The newspapers are *The Sun, The Guardian and Vanguard*. The newspapers chosen are believed to be representatives of Nigerian newspapers as they were selected from among other National dailies through simple random sampling. The newspapers from among which the sample newspapers were chosen are: *Daily Champion, National Tribune, The Guardian, National Mirror, The Sun, This Day, Vanguard, The Punch, Daily independent, and The Nation*.

Regularity of appearance on news stands, wide circulation within Nigeria and readership (as attested by vendors), informed the choice of population from which they were selected.

1.9 OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF TERMS

AUDIENCE: Newspaper readers

EDITORIAL: Commentaries on sexual violence placed at the editorial column of a newspaper.

FEATURES: Write-ups on sexual violence in which analysis of facts is done.

GATE KEEPING: The process of selecting materials for publication.

PATRIARCHAL: Male centeredness.

PLACEMENT: Portions of a newspaper where issues on sexual violence are located.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE: All forms of sexual threat, assault and interference.

STRAIGHT NEWS: News stories on sexual violence that entail mere recounting of facts.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature review means summarizing, analyzing and relating relevant literature to the study on hand (Nnamani,2004,p.17). It serves as a pillar on which the research work is anchored.

The review is organized from the following perspectives:

- Historical overview of newspaper
- Newspapers' report of sexual violence
- Definition and dimensions of sexual violence
- Causes of sexual violence
- Consequences of sexual violence
- Synopsis of some related works
- Theoretical framework
- Summary of reviewed literature

2.1 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF NEWSPAPER

Before 1438 when a German metallurgist, Johann Gutenberg invented Printing press, write-ups were only hand written, the idea of a mass circulated newspaper followed the invention of that printing press. According to Dominick (1987,pp.75-84) printers began turning out what was called **corantos or currents of news** in Holland around 1620. Shortly, **corantos** spread to Britain. After twenty years, they were replaced by **Diurnals** which were daily reports of

domestic and local events usually concerned with the doings of the king and parliament. In 1690, Benjamin Harris published the first American newspaper called **Public Occurrences Both Foreign and Domestic**.

Significant advances in printing technology resulted in setting up of a newspaper for a mass audience. In 1833, Benjamin Day founded the **New York Sun**. This newspaper for the masses became possible following Fredrick Koenig's invention of a two cylinder press in 1814. The press printed both sides of the paper at once and could turn out copies at the rate of 1100 per hour. The other impetus needed at the time was to harness an outside power source to the press to increase its speed. In 1822, Dan Treadwell achieved that feat by harnessing a real horse to his machine, thereby creating a true one horse power printing press. It was later replaced by steam power.

The origin of newspaper in Nigeria can be traced to 1859. According to Ogbuoshi (2005,p.8), it was in that year that a European missionary, the Revered Henry Townsend established a printing press at Abeokuta, with which he printed Africa's first vernacular newspaper called Iwe Irohin.

Okafor (2002,p.39), noted that the history of the Nigerian press (newspaper) could be studied by breaking it into periods. She said that the first period is from 1859 to 1920, the second period is 1920 to 1937, the third era of the development was between 1937 and 1947, and the forth era started from 1947 and stretched to 1960, while the fifth and final era came into being from 1960 to the present day.

The periods were marked by progressive indications of development ranging from publication regularity, format, scope in terms of news coverage, circulation and readership, to design.

2.2 NEWSPAPERS' REPORT OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Some reports of sexual violence against women and children in different parts of Nigeria and the world by the sample newspapers are cited below:

HIV positive teacher rapes 12 year old student. (2009, July 14). *The Sun*, p.10. The story is about a 52 year old teacher of Wesley High School Otukpo, alleged to be HIV positive who raped a 12 year old student of the school.

The Congo's prison rape victims recount ordeal. (2009, July8). *The Guardian*, p. 10. The story tells of how about 20 women were raped and held hostage on the night of June 21 at Muzenze prison by fellow male prisoners.

Men on trial for rape of eight -year- olds. (2009, August 29). *The Guardian*, p.51. The report is about 43 year old Muyinwa Ogunbadejo who defiled a nine year old niece of his neighbour, four times in Egbeda, Lagos state. Also, in Ikeja magistrate court where the case was pending, was the case of a 55 year old Isiaka Babatunde who raped an 8 year old girl.

Randy headmaster recounts how he raped 9 – year – old pupil....says 'the girl encouraged me but I used Vaseline to penetrate her.'(2009, July 11). *Vanguard*, p.40. In the story, Mr. Umana Inuamam, headmaster of Meoka Primary and Nursery School, Ishefun Ayobo in Alimosho L.G.A of Lagos State, raped 9 –year- old primary 5 pupil.

36 year – old HIV/AIDS patient rapes 3 year- old, infects her. (2009, October 12). *Vanguard*, p.14. The accused, Mr. Cletus Agwu, in a bid to get cure for his HIV status, was misled by a witch doctor in Makurdi to rape a 3 year old girl.

Death of female corps member :NYSCDG/ Principal on collision course. (2009, October 10). *Vanguard*, p .1. The story is about Grace Adei, corps member serving at El-kanemi College of Business Administration, Maiduguri, who was raped to death.

Man, 34 defiles 3 year – old girl. (2009, October 17) *Vanguard*, p.16. The story is about one Adekunle Musa who defiled 3 year- old Elizabeth Ajamah.

56 year- old man arrested for allegedly defiling two under aged girls. (2009, November 10) *Vanguard*, p. 40. The report is about Moses Ikechukwu, a trader in children's toys at North Bank Market, Markudi who had carnal knowledge of two nine year-old girls.

How we were arrested and sexually abused.(2009, November 28). *The Sun*, p 23. Nude dancers in four Lagos clubs made the allegation against officials of Lagos State Environmental Task Force and Special Offences Units.

A call for 'global alert system' on sex offenders.(2009, September 10). *The Sun*, p.12. The story is about three sexual predators who abused countless children in Cambodia.

3 alleged rapists land in trouble. (2009, September 10). *The Sun*, p. 36 The three men allegedly raped a 14 year-old girl.

Guinean group claims 100 women abused in crackdown (2009, November 27). *The Guardian*, p. 10. The story states that UN experts learnt that Guinean soldiers raped at least 100 women during a crackdown on protesters in September, 2009.

Police hunt for lady traffickers in human beings... arrest 12 teenagers forced into prostitution. (2009, September 2) *Vanguard*, p.40

2.3 DEFINITION AND DIMENSIONS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence can be defined as infliction of sexually abusive act(s) on somebody. The act(s) may either be physical or verbal, but related to sex and directed to somebody who considers it (them) offensive. It may also involve the use or threat of force for the purpose of having sexual acts with somebody who is unwilling.

For proper understanding of the term "sexual violence", sexuality needs to be understood. "Sexuality is a central aspect of being human through out life and encompasses sex, gender identities and roles, sexual orientation, eroticism, pleasure, intimacy and reproduction. Sexuality is experienced in thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitude, values, behaviours, practices, roles and relationships" (Wairimu & Wanjiku, 2005,p.6). This definition makes it clear that sexuality encompasses physical, emotional and social aspects of human living.

Sexual violence which simply means violence against a person's sexuality can be in form of rape, sexual harassment and sex for favour. These various dimensions of sexual violence shall be discussed below.

RAPE

Rape is a criminal offence. Section 357 of Criminal Code Act, Law of federation of Nigeria 1990 CAP77 (cited in WACOL), states what acts a person can carry out and he will be guilty of the offence of rape:

Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a woman or a girl, without her consent, or if her consent is obtained by force or by means of threats or intimidation of any kind, or by fear of harm, or by means of false and fraudulent representation as to the nature of the act, or in the case of married woman, by personating her husband, is guilty of an offence which is called rape [WACOL,2002,p.1].

It can be noted here that any person (male or female) who through tricks, threat or force engages in a sexual intercourse with a girl or a woman, raped the victim. Therefore, rape has to do with coitus obtained not exclusively through force as is commonly believed but through either force or other means.

It is noteworthy that Nigerian criminal code does not either consider or envisage sodomy or the possibility of a girl or a woman securing sexual intercourse with a boy or a man either through force, trick or intimidation. This position of the criminal code is affirmed by Women's Aid Collective (WACOL) as it posits, "a woman cannot be convicted of raping her husband or any man because the offence can only be committed upon a girl or a woman" (WACOL, 2002,p. 4).

It is not only the law, but also the society doesn't sympathize with male victims of rape. When men or boys are victims of sexual violence, some of these problems can be compounded. While at least some legal and social networks,

however rudimentary, often exist for women and girls, who have been sexually attacked, there is rarely anything comparable for male victims (UNHCR, 2005,p. 5).

In a research on the coverage of sexuality by the Kenyan print media,by Wairimu and Wanjiku[2005], two daily newspapers and one weekly magazine reported 56 incidences of sodomy between July and December, 2005. The researchers worried over the discovery, lamented that Sodomy is one of the sexual violence incidents that occurred at an alarming rate between July and December, [P.33].

The research also referring to *Daily Nation* (November, 2005), noted that a young boy accused his mother of raping him. Rape is therefore not exclusive to girls and women.

The indifference of law and society to rape or sexual violence against the male gender, especially in Nigeria, makes victims to suffer in silence. It mystifies the act and makes it shrouded in darkness. The implication is that victims may not speak out and if they do, they may not be believed. Therefore, the anti-natural and anti-social act is thriving unchallenged.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

This is another dimension of sexual violence. According to WACOL(2008), sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and any verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute harassment when any of the following occurs:

- ❖ Submission to such conduct is explicitly made or threatened to be made a term or condition of an individual's employment or participation in any academic or sponsored programme.
- ❖ Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used or threatened to be used as the basis for academic, employment or programme decisions affecting that individual.
- ❖ Such conduct has the purpose or effect of interfering with an individual's state of mind, academic or professional performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, uncomfortable or offensive learning, employment, or living environment".

WACOL also gave examples of sexual harassment as:

- ❖ Unsolicited, unwelcome flirtations, advances, and / or propositions of sexual nature;
- ❖ Insults, jokes, or anecdotes that belittle or demean an individual or a group's sexuality or genders;
- ❖ Unwelcome sexually-oriented gestures, verbal expressions, comments of a sexual nature about an individual's body, clothing, or sexual experience;
- ❖ Inappropriate display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures;
- ❖ Unnecessary and inappropriate touching, such as patting, pinching, hugging or brushing against an individual's body.

Suggestions that submission to or rejection of sexual advances will affect decisions regarding such matters as an individual's employment, work

assignments, or status, salary, bonuses, or letters of recommendation (pp.1- 2)

Sexual harassment is classified as sexual violence because the expression (verbal or physical) that embodies it is offensive to the person it is directed to. Invariably the disgusting feeling it invokes is psychologically hurtful and certainly has other negative consequences for the victim.

SEX FOR FAVOUR

This means setting of sex as a condition for doing favour to somebody. Though no physical pressure may be applied to make the victim yield for sex, but psychological pressure is obviously involved, occasioned by the need or desire of the victim to obtain the favour sought. Since sex is the condition to be met for the favour, consent of the victim is therefore not prompted by willingness or a sense of mutual pleasure. This is what qualifies sex for favour as sexual violence.

United Nations High Commission for Refugees noted some situations in which sex for favour can take place:

Pirates may capture women as they travel by boat and extort sex in exchange for their safety and onward passage. Smugglers may assist female refugees across the border in exchange for sex and / or money and valuables... in a variety of asylum situations, officials who determine the refugee status of the applicant may exhort sex in exchange for a positive determination. Refugee women and girls may be approached for sexual favours.

Women in particular may be susceptible to sexual extortion in exchange for material assistance or for identification cards or other forms of documentation required by government officials (UNHCR, 1995, pp.3-4).

Sex for favour is arguably common in educational institutions and work places. Issues of sex for grades or marks, for jobs or promotions are usually reported, discussed or rumoured in these or about these places.

In some banks in Nigeria, it is alleged that a condition given to female job seekers is that they would be ready to offer their bodies to bank customers as a ploy for retaining them and that female bankers are also coerced into whoredom for their superiors and banks' customers. In Enugu, one banker, Mrs. Akabugo in protest to pressure to debase her to a woman of easy virtue in accordance with the policy of her bank, sued the bank to court.

2.4 CAUSES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Some factors dispose people to either being victims or perpetrators of sexual violence. Some of the factors shall be discussed below:

It has been pointed out that seeking favour from men, makes women and girls susceptible to sexual violence (sex for favour).

Though feminists argue that woman and girls have the right to dress any how they like, yet, that provocative dressing can incite sexual urge in men or boys and result in rape is possible. Sexual fantasy precipitated by half nudity which is now fashionable among some female youths and women in our society does not all the time immediately result in raping the female

concerned, but it may gradually overwhelm the thought process of emotionally weak boys and men and infuse uncontrollable desire for sex in them, as a result of which they can go for any female at their reach, whether adult or minor, to quench the burning urge.

Alcohol and drug abuse distort reasoning and can lead the abuser (male or female) into cruel and disgusting behaviours. Usually, strong sexual drive is occasioned by alcohol and hard drug abuse and due to the inability of the abuser to co-ordinate his or her thoughts, rationality can be thrown to the wind in the way and manner of seeking the sexual gratification needed.

Child labour which takes children away from the watchful eyes of their parents and brings them in contact with strangers, can expose and make them victims of sexual violence. WACOL (2002] notes;

As a result of the poor economic situation in our society, most parents send out their under aged children to hawk wares and this category of children are vulnerable and they in most cases are sexually abused by their so-called customers. Also, children who work as domestic helps are vulnerable; they are in most cases abused by the male members of the family they work for[pp.6-7]

Erosion of social sanctions, norms for proper behaviour and cultural values by civilization and influence of western media content has resulted in moral depravity in our society and this is culpable for sexual violence. In the good old days when traditional societal support mechanisms were in force, sexual violence was unheard of and if it ever happened, the perpetrator faced serious sanctions.

Cultural practices can as well be instrumental to sexual violence.

Cultures of many societies are patriarchal and therefore entrench superiority of men to women. This gives the impression that it is appropriate for men to have their way over women and this could lead to the notion that whenever a man develops sexual urge, whether or not a woman is willing, she would have to submit. In a cultural context like this, refusal of a woman to consent to a man's sexual advances could result in sexual violence against her.

Some traditional practices explicitly promote sexual violence as they do not give any room for women to object to sexual intercourse. Ajani cultural practice in a town called Nawgu in Anambra state is a typical example. There, a widow is expected to sleep with a deity priest before the burial of her dead husband, on the premise that doing that would make the spirit of her deceased husband rest in peace. No reasonable bereaved woman would be in the mood to enjoy sex, especially before her dead husband is buried. Moreover, she has no right to choose whom to make the love with. She is definitely coerced into doing it.

A similar thing happens in some parts of Benue state where men offer their wives as kola to their valued visitors.

Agujiobi (2003,p.20) reported that one man they interviewed in South Africa stated that their greatest problem (over sexual matter) is their tradition. The man related that young males usually undergo some rituals which are preparation for manhood. That after being initiated into manhood,

the next step is to show boldness, physical and emotional development by raping any female available.

2.5 CONSEQUENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Sexual violence obviously has negative consequences for its victims. The consequences can be physical, psychological and social. Force of penetration in the case of rape or coerced sexual intercourse can cause harm to the victim. Since there might not be sexual arousal in the female victim, she will likely not develop pleasurable sensation that could lead her vaginal walls to produce lubrication that would facilitate painless penetration, and too the perpetrator would obviously not be relaxed and gentle and so the victim might have bruises.

Other physical consequences may include contracting HIV or other sexually transmitted diseases, and abortion.

Victims may experience psychological trauma, loss of self esteem, emotional pain and self pity. They may also experience deep depression that could lead to mental and personality disorders and suicide.

Victims of sexual violence may suffer socially by way of stigmatization by friends, relatives and associates. They may even be rejected or disowned by spouse or family members. Unfriendly attitudes to them can lead to loss of self worth, forced or self withdrawal from school or job.

2.6 SYNOPSIS OF SOME RELATED WORKS

Sexual abuse among juvenile female street hawkers in Anambra state.

In the study conducted by Ikechebelu, J.I., Udigwe, G.O., Ezechukwu, C.C, Ndinechi, A.G. and Joe Ikechukwu, N.N., data was collected with semi structured interviewer administered questionnaire.

The reseachers found that out of 86 respondents, 130 (69.9%) had been sexually abused with 32(17.2%) having had penetrative sexual intercourse (28.1% were forced and 56.3% submitted willingly) while hawking. Other types of sexual abuse experienced by the 130 hawkers include inappropriate touches and verbal abuses. 19(59.4%) of the sexual partners were adults and 9(29.1) were another child/ adolescent. There was familiarity between hawker and sexual partner in 20(62.5%) of cases while in the remaining 12 (37.5%), the sexual partners were total strangers.

Sexual assault agianst women at Oshagbo, South Western Nigeria.

The study was carried out by Adeleke, N.A., Olowookere, A.S., Hassan, M.B., komolafe, J.O. , and Asekun- Olarinmoye, E.O. Its objective was to review the patterns of sexual violence against women treated at the hospital over a 7 year period. The method used was reviewing of hospital records of victims of sexual assault who presented at the hospital from 1 January, 2003 to 31 December, 2009.

It was found that sexual assualt cases constituted 2.1% of female consultation outside pregnancy during the period under study, while propotion of cases increased over_the years under review. Mean age of victims was 15.8 years ranging 5 to 48 years. Most (73.7%) were less than 18 years while 93.2% were

single. About 81% of the victims less than 18 years were sexually abused in the day time. Majority (79.6%) knew their assailant. About 40% of the victims presented within 24 hours of sexual abuse but none had post exposure prophylaxis.

News Coverage of Sexual Violence Against Women in Turkey

The study was done by Sule Tomkinson. The research method was content analysis. It was aimed at examining the context in which sexual violence news are made in Turkey and to engage in a critical analysis of media coverage of sexual violence – rape and rape attempt against women from January, 2002 to December, 2010.

The following observations were made:

- The portrait of rapists are presented as monstrous or a psychopaths.
- Women are raped when there is no male figure around them.
- Sexual violence is blamed on outrageous sexual violence abroad.
- Rape is described as sexual petty crime or 'sexy' crime.
- The sexual violence news of girl child, disabled girl child and women and elderly women as tragic case of helpless victims, while women hold at least partial responsibility in their rape.
- Sexual violence news create 'us' and 'others': our good women, their loose women; our good men, their rapist men.

The Coverage of Sexuality by the Kenyan Print media.

The study was carried out by Wairimu Muita and Wanjiku Khamasi between July and December, 2005.

The researchers noted that the content analysis of the coverage of sexuality and sexuality education, HIV and AIDs, reproductive health and rights, sexual orientation and identity, sexual violence and child marriages on the whole, by the media is relatively general and often lacks details.

They observed that the incidences of sexual violence top the list- they get most coverage in terms of number of articles featured. Fathers, gangs, teachers and teenage boys and significant family members are reported as the main perpetrators of sexual violence against minors (girls and boys) and women.

The above studies which are related to this work show various ways or methods in which some researchers have carried out studies on sexual violence. This study therefore is contributory to sexual violence studies which before now had been embarked on by reseachers.

2.7 THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

The theories considered relevant to this work are Agenda Setting and Cultural Feminist theory. They are discussed below:

AGENDA SETTING THEORY

The idea of agenda setting function of mass communication is believed to have evolved from a seminal article by McCombs and Shaw (1972). In the article

published in Public Opinion Quarterly, they investigated the capacity of the media to set the agenda of topics deemed important during the 1968 American presidential election. The idea posits that the priorities of the press to some extent become the priorities of the public, as what the press considers important and emphasizes is in turn emphasized by its audiences.

Theodore (1973), extolling the ability of the press to effect cognitive change in people by structuring their thinking, noted "the power of the press in America is a primordial one. It sets the agenda of public discussion, and this sweeping political power is unrestrained by any law. It determines what people will talk and think about"[p.327]. He therefore affirms the assertion of Cohen (1963), that "the mass media may not be successful in telling us what to think, but they are stunningly successful in telling us what to think about"[p.13].

Nelson (1984), examining media's role in transforming minor issues into important social issues, noted "the media exists at the boundary between the private and the public". Their task is to discover, unveil, and create what is "public". To do so they often wrench "private deviance" from the confines of the home"[p.84].

Grabber (1990), highlighting the power of the press to influence people's perception of issues and how it does it, stated that;

Newspapers clearly state the value they place on the salience of an item through headline size and placement within the newspaper-anywhere from the lead item on page one to placement at the bottom of a column on page 66". He also noted that "agenda setting asserts that audiences learn these salencies from

news media, incorporating a similar set of weight into their personal agendas[p.78].

It can however be noted that the theory's assumption that all media audiences will react similarly to media messages in keeping with the intention of the media, is arguable. The fact that some people who are exposed to media messages might not understand them or might not be involved as they are not interested and so cannot be influenced by the messages, indicates a shortfall of the theory.

Also, some people make up their minds on some issues, such that no amount of persuasion can make them change their position, in such a situation, media cannot set a different agenda for such people.

However, Media Tenor (researchers) in its applied Agenda Setting research has proven the theory to be valid despite its identified shortfalls. Media Tenor carries out its applied agenda setting research in the following two steps;

- 1 Everyday, media analysts encode every single information unit from all articles or news stories of more than 5 lines/ seconds in print or broadcast texts from the opinion leading media of the selected country under analysis.
- 2 Researchers then take this data and describe what was written in the opinion leading print media or broadcast on screen in TV news. This data is then correlated with public opinion polls, and voting results to determine what reality is shown (Agenda setting) in the media and what reality is not shown (Agenda Cutting) and to compare these

results, with external statistics like poll results, consumer behaviour reports etc and further research the media effects on public perception and behaviour.

Through the above process, media Tenor has many times compared the relationship between reality and the media's description of reality or public perception of this reality as described by these media. This applied Agenda Setting research has proved that media shapes people's minds, especially those with no direct connection to reality. Consequently, topics not discussed in the media have proved to be irrelevant or less relevant by public.

Cultural Feminist theory

This theory postulated in 1975 by Brooke Williams is an ideology of female nature or female essence that attempts to revalidate undervalued female attributes. It essentially commends the positive aspects of what is seen as female character or feminine personality. In keeping with the idea of this theory, early theorists like Jane Addams and Charlotte Perkins Gilman, according to Ritzer(2007), argued that in governing the state, co-operation, caring and non-violence in the settlement of conflicts, society seems to be what was needed from women's virtues.

The theory therefore posits that feminine virtues are social order-synthesis which helps to make the society habitable. It is therefore ironical that the society subjects the female gender to an inferior status and social injustice through patriarchal societal system which as a matter of fact is the bedrock of sexual violence against them. The theory by highlighting the social value of the female

gender invariably condemns social injustice against them. It is in the light of this that the theory is considered relevant to this work whose essence is promotion of feminine dignity.

2.8 SUMMARY OF REVIEWED LITRATURE

Historical overview of newspaper was treated in which the development of newspaper was traced to the present day.

Also, newspapers' report of sexual violence against women and children were cited.

The other issues the review covered are: definition and dimensions of sexual violence, causes of sexual violence, consequences of sexual violence, synopsis of some of related works and theoretical framework.

It can be noted from the review that sexual violence is an anti-social act that can be in form of rape, sexual harassment or sex for favour, mostly directed against woman and children due to economic, social and cultural factors that make them vulnerable. Its negative consequences for its victims can be physical, psychological or social.

Some studies on sexual violence were cited as a proof that this study is not alone in this area of study.

Also, agenda setting theory was examined, to establish the capability of newspaper to contribute in fighting sexual violence against women and children.

Another theory discussed is cultural feminist theory which highlights the social value of the female gender and so provides the ground for condemnation of an anti-social act like sexual violence against them.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research method of this study is content analysis. This is as a result of the research topic which requires the use of secondary data.

Three national daily newspapers were chosen for the study. Their choice was necessitated by their regularity of appearance on the news stands, their wide circulation and readership. These newspapers are privately owned. This is because privately owned newspapers are known to be more courageous and vocal than government newspapers and so can report facts not minding the status of the person involved.

The newspapers are:

1) *The Sun*

2) *The Guardians*

3) *Vanguard*

The study covered the editions of the chosen newspapers for a period of six months (July to December, 2009). All the selected samples of the newspapers were studied from the first to the last page in search of the required information

UNIT OF ANALYSIS

Story is the unit of analysis in this work.

ANALYTICAL CATEGORIES:

The following categories were used:

MEDIUM: the newspaper in which the text (unit of analysis) appeared was taken note of.

POSITION: Whether the text appeared in the front page, inside pages or back page of the newspaper, was noted for analysis.

TYPE: The newspaper content was also categorized along the lines of straight news, features, editorials and letters to editors.

QUANTIFICATION SYSTEM

Nominal system of data measurement was used. This means counting of the frequency of occurrence of the unit of analysis in each category.

3.2 STUDY OF POPULATION

A population is made up all conceivable elements, subjects or observations relating to a particular phenomenon of interest to the researcher. Subjects or elements are individual items that make up the population. They may be observed or physically counted (Asika, 1991,p.39).

Okeke (2001) explains that "the term population is used to denote not only the number of people but also institutions, things, members of the target study"[p.131].

The population for this study is 549 editions of the three selected newspapers covering 183 days (July to December, 2009) that make up the six months which is the scope of study.

The population was arrived at by multiplying 183 by 3 that is 183 newspaper editions by the 3 newspapers being studied, and the sum is 549.

3.3 SAMPLING TECHNIQUES AND SAMPLE SIZE

Sample for the study is a part or a fraction or a subset of the population for the study (Nmamani, 2004:21).

The sampling technique of Taro Yamene was applied to arrive at the sample size, viz:

$$\text{The formula } n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where: n = desired sample size
 N = population for Study
 l = theoretical constant
 e = expected error margin (5%)

$$\text{Therefore, } \frac{549}{1 + 549(0.05)^2}$$

$$= 1 + 1.37 = 2.37 = 2.4$$

$$\frac{549}{2.4} = 229$$

The sample size is therefore 229, out of the total population, then divided by 3 (number of newspapers) which gives 76. It means 76 copies each of the three newspapers.

The process of obtaining a sample from a population involves randomness. Random sampling according to Nnamani (2004), is “the process of selecting a sample in such a way that individuals in the defined population have an equal and independent chance of being selected for the sample” [p.22]. In view of this, to select the 76 editions of each newspaper, simple random sampling was used. Days and dates of the six months, totaling 183 (the population size for each newspaper), were written on slips of paper and put in a container. After thorough reshuffling, a slip of paper was picked without looking into the container and the day and date written on it was recorded and the slip of paper put back into the container. The exercise was repeated until 76 different days were picked for each of the three newspapers. Then, for each newspaper, the editions of the days were selected for study.

3.4 MEASURING INSTRUMENT

According to Asika (1991), “measurement is the assignment of numbers or qualitative attributes to objects, or events or the characteristics of objects, according to some specified rules” [p.50].

In this study, coding schedule was used in measuring the result obtained from the data collected.

3.5 PILOTING THE CODING SCHEDULE AND CHECKING FOR VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY.

The coding schedule (research instrument) was tested on a small sub-sample and the result obtained proved that the instrument measured what it

was supposed to measure. To ascertain the reliability of the coding process, inter-coder reliability check was used. Another researcher was engaged to do the coding and it was found consistent with the test done by this research

TABLE 3.1: Editions of Newspaper for Analysis Code

Newspaper Editions	Codes
<i>The Sun</i>	1
<i>The Guardian</i>	2
<i>Vanguard</i>	3

TABLE 3.2 Prominence of sexual violence Stories Code

Stories	Codes
Number of front page sexual violence stories	1
Number of front page non sexual violence stories	2

TABLE 3.3: Forms of Report Code

Forms	Codes
Editorials	1
Features	2
Straight news	3
Letters to Editors	4

TABLE 3.4 Dimensions of Sexual Violence Code

Dimension	Code
Rape	1
Sexual harassment	2
Sex for favour	3

TABLE 3.5: Perpetrators of Sexual Violence Code

Perpetrator	Codes
Father	1
Relative	2
Teacher	3
Employer	4
Gang	5
Serial rapist	6
other	7

3.6 METHOD OF DATA ANALYSIS

Two statistical approaches were used in analyzing the data collected. They are descriptive statistics and inferential statistics.

Under descriptive statistics, the statistical measures used are frequency tables and simple percentages, while the inferential statistical measure employed to test the hypothesis that guided this work, is chi-square.

3.7 EXPECTED RESULTS

1. Considering hypothesis one, it is expected that newspapers will not give prominence to sexual violence stories. This assumption is premised on the possibility that more males than females read newspapers and men are known to be interested more in political and economic news than in any other type of news. Therefore, placing sexual violence stories so much on front pages may not be beneficial to newspaper organizations in terms of sales.
2. Concerning hypothesis two, it is expected that newspapers will be reporting sexual violence issues very often. The reason for this expectation is that sexual violence against women and children is a common occurrence in our country.
3. Regarding hypothesis three, it is expected that newspapers will report sexual violence issues more as features than straight news, editorials or letters to editors. This assumption is based on the fact that negative effects of sexual violence on its victims in particular and the society in general, demands that its incidence should not be merely recounted, but analyzed and even emotional slant injected into the story so as to elicit readers' condemnation of the act.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION ANALYSIS

4.1 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

TABLE 4.1: Newspaper Coverage of Sexual Violence.

Name of Newspaper	Number of stories on Sexual violence Reported	Percentage
<i>The Sun</i>	22	56%
<i>The Guardian</i>	7	18%
<i>Vanguard</i>	10	26%
Total	39	100%

From the table above, the sample editions of the newspapers studied, reported 39 stories on sexual violence.

The Sun reported 22 stories representing 56% of the total number of stories reported on sexual violence by three newspapers.

The Guardian had 7 stories on Sexual violence and that amounts to 18% of the entire stories on sexual violence.

Vanguard on the other hand reported 10 of the 39 stories by three newspapers and that represents 26%.

It can be noted that *The Sun* reported the highest number of stories, while *The Guardian* has the lowest number.

TABLE 4.2: Front Page Stories

Newspaper	Sexual violence stories	Other stories	percentage
<i>The Sun</i>	5	172	2.9%
<i>The Guardian</i>	1	186	0.5%
<i>Vanguard</i>	3	190	1.6%
Total	9	548	5%

From the table above, the sample newspapers studied, placed a total of 9 sexual violence stories on their front pages, while the number of other stories also on their front pages is 548.

The Sun placed 5 sexual violence stories and 172 other stories on front pages.

The Guardian placed only one sexual violence story, but 186 other stories on its front pages.

Vanguard placed 3 sexual violence stories and 190 other stories on front pages. It can also be noted that front page placement of sexual violence stories by *The Sun* amounts to only 2.9%, *The Guardian*, 0.5% and *Vanguard*, 1.6%, all totally 5%.

It is necessary to point out that the front pages of the sample newspapers were dominated by stories on politics, economy, crime and corruption.

Table 4.3: length of front page stories

Newspaper	Items on sexual violence	Column inches	Non-sexual violence items	Column inches
<i>The Sun</i>	5	52''	172	1'376''
<i>The Guardian</i>	1	7''	186	1,120''
<i>Vanguard</i>	3	15''	190	987''

As can be seen on the above table, the length of the 5 sexual violence stories *The Sun* reported on its front page is 52 inches while the length of the 172 non-sexual violence front page stories is 1,376 inches.

The column inches of one front page sexual violence story by *The Guardian* is 7 inches while its 186 non-sexual violence stories have 1,120 inches.

The column inches for the 3 front page sexual violence stories by *Vanguard* are 15 and 987 inches for its 190 non-sexual violence stories.

The front page stories of the newspapers most times extended to the inside pages, and the extended stories were treated as front stories and their column inches were measured.

It can be noted that the newspapers not only placed insignificant numbers of sexual violence stories on their front pages but also the reports are not deep as can be understood from the length of the stories. It is *The Sun* that comparatively did better by placing the highest number (5 stories) of sexual violence stories on the front page, also the length of the stories is impressive.

The non-sexual violence front page stories on the other hand, are not only over-whelmingly more, but also mostly more deeply treated in terms of their column inches.

The two indices for measuring story prominence in this work-front page placement and length of front page stories, therefore, clearly expose that Nigerian newspapers both in quantitative and qualitative terms, do not consider sexual violence stories important.

Table 4.4 **Number of Sexual Violence Stories According to Placement**

Newspaper	Front page	Inside page	Back page	Total
<i>The Sun</i>	5	17	0	22
<i>The Guardian</i>	1	6	0	7
<i>Vanguard</i>	3	7	0	10
Total	9	30	0	39
percentage	23%	77%	0%	100%

The above table indicates that out of the 22 stories on sexual violence reported by *The Sun*, that 5 were placed on the front pages, 17 were in inside pages while none was on the back pages.

The Guardian placed 6 stories on the inside pages, one on front page and none on back pages.

Vanguard reported 10 stories and placed 3 on the front pages while the rest appeared on the inside pages. Out of the 39 stories reported by the 3 papers, a total number of 9 were placed on the front pages, while the remaining 30 appeared on inside pages. None of the 3 papers placed any story on the back pages.

23% of sexual violence stories reported by the 3 newspapers were placed on their front pages, while the percentage of the stories placed in the inside pages is 77%. No story was placed on the back pages and so the percentage is 0%.

TABLE 4.5: Frequency of the Reports

Months (2009)	<i>The Sun</i>	<i>The Guardian</i>	<i>Vanguard</i>	Total
July	3	1	1	5
August	3	3	0	6
September	8	0	4	12
October	2	0	4	6
November	4	2	1	7
December	2	1	0	3
Total	22	7	10	39
Percentage	56%	18%	26%	100%

The table above shows that in the month of July, 2009 the 3 newspapers reported 5 stories on the sexual violence and out of that number, *The Sun* had 3 while *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* had one each.

In August, a total number of 6 stories were reported by the papers and *The Sun* and *The Guardian* shared the stories equally, while *Vanguard* had none.

Twelve stories on sexual violence were reported in September out of which 8 came from *The Sun* and the remaining 4 from *Vanguard* while *The Guardian* did not report any sexual violence story.

A total number of 6 stories featured in October with 2 coming from *The Sun* and 4 from *Vanguard* and none from *The Guardian*.

In November, the papers reported 7 stories, 4 were by *the Sun*, 2 from *The Guardian* while *Vanguard* reported one.

Three stories were reported in December out of which *The Sun* had 2 and the remaining one came from *The Guardian*. *Vanguard* reported none.

In the 6 months (July- December), *The Sun* reported 22 stories on sexual violence, *The Guardian* reported 7 while *Vanguard* reported 10.

The percentage of the stories reported by *The sun* is 56%, that of *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* is 18% and 26% respectively.

TABLE 4.6: Forms of Reporting Of Sexual Violence by the Newspapers.

Newspaper	Features	Straight-news	Editorial	Letters to Editors	Total
<i>The Sun</i>	5	16	1	0	22
<i>The Guardian</i>	0	6	1	0	7
<i>Vanguard</i>	3	7	0	0	10
Total	8	29	2	0	39
Percentage	21%	74%	5%	0	100%

The table above shows that out of 22 sexual violence stories reported by *The Sun*, that 5 were as features, 16 as straight-news and 1 as editorial.

The Guardian reported no story as features, but reported 6 stories as straight-news and one as editorial. On the other hand, out of the 10 stories reported by *Vanguard*, 3 were as features, while 7 were as straight-news.

It can be noted that none of the 3 papers reported any story in form of letters to editors.

The 3 papers reported a total of 29 stories as straight-news, representing 74% of the whole stories reported by them. 8 stories appeared as features representing 21%, while 2 editorials featured sexual violence issues, representing 5% of all the stories.

TABLE 4.7: Dimensions of Sexual Violence.

Month	<i>The Sun</i>			<i>The Guardian</i>			<i>Vanguard</i>			Total
	Rape	Sexual Harassment	Sex for favour	Rape	Sexual Harassment	Sex for favour	Rape	Sexual harassment	Sex for favour	
July	1	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Aug.	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6
Sept.	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	12
Oct.	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	6
Nov.	2	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	7
Dec.	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	11	8	3	7	0	0	7	3	0	39

It can be noted from the above table that in July, *The Sun* reported one incidence of rape, 2 incidences of sexual harassment but none of sex for favour, while *The Guardian* also had one report on rape but none on sexual harassment and sex for favour, *Vanguard* also had one report on rape and none on both sexual harassment and sex for favour.

In August, *The Sun* reported 1 story on rape, 2 on sexual harassment and none on sex for favour. *The Guardian* had 3 stories on rape but none on sexual harassment and none on sex for favour. *Vanguard* did not make any report on any of the three dimensions of sexual violence.

The Sun reported 5 incidences of rape in September, 3 of sexual harassment and none of sex for favour. *The Guardian* did not report any incidence of the three dimensions of sexual violence. *Vanguard* had one report on rape and 3 on sexual harassment, but none on sex for favour.

In October, *The Sun* reported 1 rape incidence, no sexual harassment incidence, but 1 sex for favour incidence. *The Guardian* did not report any story on any of the three dimensions. *Vanguard* had 4 stories on rape and none on sexual harassment and sex for favour.

In November, *The sun* reported 2 rape incidences, 1 incidence each of sexual harassment and sex for favour. *The Guardian* reported 2 rape incidences but no incidence of both sexual harassment and sex for favour. *Vanguard* reported 1 incidence of rape but none on the other two.

The Sun reported 1 rape story in December, none on sexual harassment, 1 on sex for favour. *The Guardian* had 1 story on rape but none on both sexual harassment and sex for favour. *Vanguard* did not report any story on any of the three dimensions in December.

It can also be noted from the table, that *The Sun* reported a total number of 11 stories on rape, 8 on sexual harassment and 3 on sex for favour.

The Guardian reported a total number of 7 rape incidences, but no story at all on both sexual harassment and sex for favour.

Vanguard on the hand, reported 7 stories on rape, 3 on sexual harassment, but no story at all on sex for favour.

TABLE 4.8: Perpetrators of Sexual Violence

Perpetrator	Number of incidences reported
Father	2
Relative	1
Teacher	2
Employer	4
Gangs	9
Serial rapist	11

Some reports of sexual violence by the newspapers did not state the perpetrators, but merely decried the act. The above offender profile indicates that sexual violence occurs in homes or is carried out by people that naturally should protect those that turn out to be their preys. Women and children are also not safe in schools and work places from people in whose care they are, just like they are not safe in the field or in the streets.

4.2: TESTING OF HYPOTHESES

Hypothesis 1

Newspapers do not give prominence to sexual violence stories.....Ho

Newspapers give prominence to sexual violence stories.....Hi

Note: Front page placement is used to measure story prominence.

TABLE 4.9: Contingency table for testing Hypothesis 1

Newspaper	Sexual violence stories	Other stories	Total
<i>The sun</i>	5 (2.9)	172 (174)	177
<i>The Guardian</i>	1 (3.0)	186 (184)	187
<i>Vanguard</i>	3 (3.1)	190 (190)	193
Total	9	548	557

From the data collected, the expected frequencies of the reported stories were calculated. The expected frequencies are enclosed in brackets. The figures that are not in brackets are the observed frequencies.

The expected frequencies (E) were obtained by using the formula:

$$E_j = \frac{R_i C_j}{n}$$

Where R = Row total i = 1, 2....r

C = Column total j = 1, 2.....c

N = number of observations.

From the table, it can be noted that:

To determine the table value, the degree of freedom is calculated and checked with the level of significance on the chi-square table.

The formula for finding degree of freedom is:

$$Df = (r-i) (c-i)$$

Where r =number of rows

C=number of columns

From the contingency table (table 4:9), there are 3 rows and 2 columns.

$$\therefore (3-1) (2-1)$$

$$=2 \times 1 = 2$$

The level of significance = $\alpha = 5\% = 0.05$.

With the degree of freedom established as 2 and the level of significance being 0.05, then if 2 is checked under 0.05 in X^2 critical table (see appendix Iv), the table value will be 5.99147.

The table value = 5.99147

The calculated value = 2.9017

The decision rule:

Rule one – reject the null hypothesis (H_0) if the calculated value of the test statistic is greater than the critical (table) value.

Rule two – do not reject the null hypothesis (H_0) if the calculated value of the test statistics is less than the critical or table value.

Therefore, the null hypothesis which states that Newspapers do not give prominence to sexual violence stories is accepted.

It therefore signals that Nigerian Newspapers do not attach importance to sexual violence stories. Prominence is given to stories by placing them on the front page and that indicates the adjudged importance of the story by the newspaper.

HYPOTHESIS 2

Newspapers do not very often report sexual violence issues-----H0.

Newspapers very often report sexual violence issues----H2

Table 4.11: Contingency Table for Testing Hypothesis 2

Months (2009)	<i>The Sun</i>	<i>The Guardian</i>	<i>Vanguard</i>	Total
July	3(2.8)	1 (0.9)	1 (1.3)	5
August	3(3.4)	3(1.1)	0(1.5)	6
September	8 (6.4)	0(2.2)	4(3.1)	12
October	2(3.4)	0(1.1)	4(1.5)	6
November	4(3.9)	2(1.3)	1(1.8)	3
December	2(71.)	1(0.5)	0(0.8)	3
TOTAL	22	7	10	39

The table shows that in July, *The sun* had observed frequency of 3 and expected frequency of 2.8, *The Guardian's* observed frequency of report was 1 while the expected frequency was 0.9. *Vanguard* had observed frequency of 1 and expected frequency of 1.3.

In August, the observed frequency of report of sexual violence for *The Sun* was 3, and the expected frequency was 3.4. *The Guardian* had the observed frequency of 3 also, but expected frequency of 1.1. *Vanguard* had no observed frequency but had expected frequency of 1.5.

In September, *The Sun* had observed frequency of report of 8 and expected frequency of 6.4. *The Guardian* had no observed frequency and expected frequency of 2.2. *Vanguard's* observed frequency was 4 and expected frequency, 3.1.

The observed frequency of *The Sun* for October was 2, while its expected frequency was 3.4. *The Guardian* had no observed frequency, but it had expected frequency of 1.1. *Vanguard's* observed frequency was 4 and its expected frequency was 1.5.

In November, the observed frequency of report for *The sun* was 4 while its expected frequency was 3.9. *The Guardian's observed* frequency was 2 but its expected frequency was 1.3. *Vanguard had observed* frequency of 1 and expected frequency of 1.8.

In December *The Sun* had observed frequency of 2 and expected frequency of 1.7. *The Guardian had observed* frequency of 1 and expected frequency of 0.5. *Vanguard* had no observed frequency but it had expected frequency of 0.8.

χ^2 calculated value = 17.5336

From the contingency table, $r = 6$, $c = 3$

$df = (6-1) (3-1) = (5) (2) = 10$

$\chi^2 = 10, 0.05 = 18.3070$ (see appendix Iv).

Since the calculated value is 17.5336 and the table value is 18.3070, therefore, the calculated value is less than the table value; therefore, the null hypothesis which states that "newspapers do not very often report sexual violence issues" is accepted.

The fact that sexual violence against women and children is a common occurrence in Nigeria, infrequent reportage of it, points to lack of interest of either reporters or editors to sexual violence incidents or stories.

HYPOTHESIS 3

Newspapers do not report sexual violence more as features than as straight news, editorial or letters to editors ----H0

Newspapers report sexual violence more as features than as straight news, editorial or letters to editors -----H3

Table 4.13: Contingency Table for Testing Hypothesis 3

Newspaper	Features	Straight news	Editorial	Letters to Editors	Total
<i>The Sun</i>	5(4.5)	16(16.4)	1(1.1)	0(0)	22
<i>The Guardian</i>	0(1.4)	6(5.2)	1(0.4)	0(0)	7
<i>Vanguard</i>	3(2.1)	7(7.4)	0(0.5)	0(0)	10
Total	8	29	2	0	39

The table above shows that *The Sun* reported 5 sexual violence stories in form of features but the expected frequency was 4.5. Its observed frequency for straight news form of reportage was 16 while the expected frequency was 16.4. For editorials, it had 1 observed frequency and expected frequency of 1.1. But it had no observed frequency for letters to editors and also no expected frequency.

No features story on sexual violence was observed in *The Guardian*, but its expected frequency for features was 1.4. For straight news, it had 6 observed frequency and 5.2 expected frequency. For editorials, it had 1 observed frequency and 0.4 expected frequency. It had no observed frequency and no expected frequency for letters to editors.

3 features story on sexual violence were observed in *Vanguard*, but the expected frequency was 2.1. For straight news, it had 7 observed frequency and

7.4 expected frequency. It had no observed frequency for editorial but 0.5 expected frequency. It had no observed frequency and expected frequency for letters to editor.

TABLE 4.14: Calculation of X^2 value for hypothesis 3

Newspaper	Forms of Report	Observed Frequency	Expected Frequency	O-E	$(O-E)^2$	$\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$
<i>The Sun</i>	features	5	4.5	0.5	0.25	00.556
	Straight News	16	16.4	-0.4	-0.16	000.9756
	Editorial	1	1.1	-0.1	-0.01	000.9091
	Letters to Editors	0	0	0	0	0
<i>The Guardian</i>	features	0	1.4	1.4	1.96	1.4
	Straight News	6	5.2	0.8	0.64	0.1231
	Editorial	1	1.1	-0.1	-0.01	000.9091
	Letters to Editors	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Vanguard</i>	features	3	2.1	0.9	0.81	0.3857
	Straight News	7	7.4	-0.4	-0.16	00.2162
	Editorial	0	0.5	0.5	0.25	0.5
	Letters to Editors	0	0	0	0	0
Total						5.9744

X^2 calculated value = 5.9744

From the contingency table, $C=4$, $R=3$

$$df = (4-1)(3-1) = (3)(2) = 6$$

$$X^2 = 6, 0.05 = 12.5916 \text{ (see appendix iv).}$$

Since the calculated value is 5.9744 and the table value is 12.5916, the calculated value is less than the table value, therefore the null hypothesis which states that "Newspapers do not report sexual violence more as features than as straight news, editorials or letters to editors", is accepted.

This shows that Nigerian newspapers do not report or present sexual violence stories with the aim of appealing to the emotion of their audiences. Features which entails analysis of facts and possibly injecting emotional slant to the story is very valuable for presenting sexual violence stories, as it can prompt the readers to rise to challenge the problem.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The study shows that Nigerian newspapers as represented by the three national dailies studied, do not attach importance to sexual violence. This is premised on their placement of sexual violence reports. Newspapers accord prominence to a story by placing it on the front page, among other things. Front page placement of a story is not only an indication of adjudged importance of the story by the newspaper, which invariably influences people's perception of such story or issue as being important, but also, it makes the story strategic for audience attention. But Nigerian newspapers' front page placement of sexual

violence is disappointing. Front pages of the sample newspapers were dominated by stories on politics, economy, crime and corruption.

Also, Nigerian newspapers sadly do not utilize back pages for placement of sexual violence stories. None of the papers studied placed any sexual violence story on its back page, despite the fact that back page stories catch readers' attention.

Similarly, Nigerian newspapers in view of the findings from the samples, do not frequently report sexual violence issues. But *The Sun* in its edition of August 27, 2009, page 11, quoted the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corps, Bauchi state commander as saying that the command recorded between two and three cases of rape daily and between fifteen and twenty cases monthly. Going by this revelation, one wonders why only thirty – nine sexual violence issues were reported by the three sample newspapers in six months. It could then be said that it is either that Nigerian newspaper journalists do not consider reporting sexual violence important or that editors in their gate keeping function fail to reasonably publish sexual violence stories gathered.

From the findings too, it is noted that Nigerian newspapers do not give preference to features form of journalistic reportage in presenting sexual violence issues. Ample use of features which entails not only reporting the fact, but also analyzing and possibly injecting emotional slant into it, would make the message stronger so as to precipitate societal condemnation of sexual violence. The newspapers rather made more use of straight – news form of reporting which entails mere recounting of facts. Editorials which are official opinions or

position of newspapers on issues were rarely utilized by the newspapers. This further attests to Nigerian newspapers' poor interest in reporting sexual violence.

Also, none of the papers published any letter to the editor on sexual violence.

It can be argued that the inadequate interest of Nigerian newspapers in reporting sexual violence as proven by the findings of this research work, is because print journalism is male – dominated and so protection of 'male superiority' and solidarity to male perpetrators of sexual violence underline the attitude of male reporters and editors to sexual violence incidents and stories.

Moreover, ideological effects of patriarchal cultural/social constructs of the Nigerian society which suggests that it is proper for men to have their way over women in everything, could explain why members of the public fail to cry out against sexual violence against women and children through letters to editors.

In the other hand, media feed from the society and seem to reflect or recreate the society. Nigerian newspapers' dismal performance in using their social powers to combat sexual violence against women and children therefore can be a reflection of societal perspective of that problem. But the media (newspapers) have the social responsibility to identify and condemn anomalies in the society. Examining situations from an impartial stand and focusing on social justice can make the media operate at a high moral pedestal that can give them the courage to rise to reverse or challenge an evil societal trend like sexual violence

It seems reasonable to assert that unless Nigerian newspapers wake up from slumber to play a leading role for stemming the tide of sexual violence against women and children, impressive success in any effort to tackle that problem is impossible. Therefore, if Nigerian newspapers do not give up their dangerous complacent attitude to sexual violence against women and children, women and children in Nigeria would soon become 'socially endangered species'.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.1 SUMMARY

This study set out to evaluate the level of attention or degree of coverage of sexual violence by Nigerian newspapers. This is aimed at determining the extent to which newspapers contribute in tackling the problem of sexual violence in Nigeria.

In order to get the desired result, selected samples of three national dailies were studied. In the course of the study, three research questions were answered, they are as follows:

- (1) Do newspapers give prominence to sexual violence stories?
- (2) How often do newspapers report sexual violence issues?.
- (3) Do newspapers report sexual violence more as features than as straight-news, editorials or letters to editors?.

Findings made from the study are that newspapers do not give prominence to sexual violence stories; newspapers do not frequently report sexual violence stories and that newspapers do not report sexual violence more as features than as straight-news, editorials or letters to editors.

5.2 CONCLUSION

Nigerian newspapers do not attach importance to reportage of sexual violence issues. This is evident in their poor front-page placement, infrequent reporting and rare use of features form of journalistic reportage in presenting sexual violence issues. In this regard, it can be said that Nigerian newspapers do not live up to the expectation of the society from them in view of their watch dog role and social responsibility. In other words, the contribution of Nigerian newspapers in tackling the problem of sexual violence against women and children is not impressive.

5.3 RECOMMENDATION

In view of the necessity of newspapers in fighting sexual violence against women and children and considering Nigerian newspapers' present apathetic stance on it, it is recommended that feminist or women organizations should set up newspaper organizations through which they can impressively expose sexual violence and amplify their voices against it. That can also awaken the already existing newspapers to meaningfully contribute their own quota to the battle.

5.4 RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDIES

It is obvious that sexual violence in our society is not perpetrated against only women and children, but also against men (sodomy), it is therefore recommended that research should be carried out to ascertain Nigerian newspapers' level of attention to it.

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Appendix 1

Coding sheet for Newspaper Coverage of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children.

1 Name of Newspaper.....

1 = *The Sun*

2 = *The Guardian*

3 = *Vanguard*

2. Study time frame.....

July – December (2009)

3. Promience of sexual violence stories.....

1 = number of sexual violence front page stories

2 = number of non-sexual violence front page stories

4. Length of front page stories.....

1 = sexual violence stories (column inches)

3 = non-sexual violence stories (column inches)

5. Frequency of sexual violence stories.....

1 = number of front page sexual violence stories

2 = number of inside page sexual violence stories

3 = number of back page sexual violence stories

6 Forms of report of sexual violence.....

1 = editorial

2 = features

3 =straight-news

4 =letters to editors

7 Dimension of sexual violence.....

- 1 = rape
- 2 = sexual harassment
- 3 = sex for favour

8. Perpetrators sexual violence.....

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 1 = father | 2= relative |
| 3 = teacher | 4 =employer |
| 5 = gang | 6= serial rapist |
| 7 = others | |

Appendix 11

Coding Instruction

1. Name of Newspaper.....
 - 1 = *The Sun* : code as NP1
 - 2 = *The Guardian* : code as NP2
 - 3 = *Vanguard* : code as NP3
2. Study time frame.....

July – December(2009): Be sure that all selected newspapers were published between July and December, 2009 and then code.
3. Prominence of Sexual violence stories.....
 - 1= number of sexual violence front page stories:
Note and code the number of sexual violence front page stories.
 - 2 = number of non -sexual violence front page stories: Code all non Sexual violence front page stories.
4. Length of front page stories.....
 - 1 = sexual violence stories (column inches): measure and code the column inches of sexual violence stories.
 - 2 = non- sexual violence stories (column inches):
Include the coulmn inches of all non-sexual violence stories.

Note : stories that appeared on the front page and continued on the inside page, their entire length should be considered despite the inside page appearance.

5. Frequency of Sexual Violence stories.....

1 = number of front page sexual violence stories:

Note and code the number of times sexual violence stories appeared on the front page.

2 = number of inside page sexual violence stories:

code the number of times sexual violence stories appeared on the inside pages.

3 = number of back page sexual violence stories:

code the number of times sexual violence stories appeared on the back pages.

6. Forms of report of Sexual Violence.....

1 = editorial: newspaper opinions are code able provided they bordered directly on sexual violence.

2 = features: analytical stories on sexual violence should be coded.

3 = straight-news: factual reportage of sexual violence should be noted and coded.

4 = letters to editors: code all letters to editors on sexual violence.

7. Dimensions of sexual violence.....

1 = rape : code all rape cases.

2 = sexual harassment : code all verbal or physical sexually related expressions that are offensive to the recipient.

3 = sex for favour : code all cases of sex for favour.

8. Perpetrators of sexual violence.....

1 = father

2 = relative

3 = teacher

4 = employer

5 = gang

6 = serial rapist

7 = other.

Note and code the above listed possible perpetrators of sexual violence where applicable.