

A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF TWO NATIONAL DAILIES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study sought to determine the prominence, frequency and depth with which the Punch and Nigerian Tribune newspapers reported domestic violence cases in Nigeria between March and August 2023. The study was anchored on the Agenda Setting Theory. It adopted content analysis research design and through the use of purposive sampling technique, 184 editions each of the selected newspapers making a total of 368 editions were analyzed. Data revealed that The Punch and Nigerian Tribune newspapers did not attach enough importance to the coverage of domestic violence in terms of prominence as none of the newspapers published domestic violence story on their front page although the reports had full details on the inside page. In addition, data also showed that Nigerian Tribune newspaper covered more cases of domestic violence than the Punch newspaper. Findings further revealed that the two newspapers did not give much full page coverage to the menace as only the Punch newspaper published just 8 stories while Nigerian Tribune did not publish a full page story on the menace. The study concluded that The Punch and Nigerian Tribune newspapers did not do an adequate job in informing the public about domestic violence by frequently writing on them. The study therefore recommended that the media should enlighten the public about domestic violence and its impact on family and the society at large.

Keywords: Violence, Domestic violence, Coverage, Nigerian newspapers, Gender Based Violence.

INTRODUCTION

Violence is the use of physical force that is meant to injure, abuse, damage or destroy. The World Health Organization (WHO 1999) explains that violence is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal development or deprivation.

American Psychological Association (2010) defines violence as an extreme form of aggression such as assault, rape or murder. This means that any type of hostility which is borne out of frustration which causes pain on self or others is violent.

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. The definition adds that domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender", and can take many forms, which include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional, economic and psychological abuse (Office of Violence Against Women, 2007).

Research has indicated that domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence and intimate partner violence, a pattern of abusive behaviour by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family or cohabitation. Domestic violence, has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse otherwise known as neglect; and economic deprivation (Seimeniuk, Krentz, Gish & Gill, 2017).

Domestic violence and abuse is not limited to obvious physical violence. It can mean endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, harassment and stalking (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2011). Families from all social, racial economic, educational and religious backgrounds experience domestic violence in different ways. Research has indicated that in the United States of America (USA), each year, women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes while men are victims of about 2.9 million intimate (UNICEF, 2014). In Nigeria; reports reveal "shockingly high" level of violence against women (Afrol News, 2018).

Amnesty international (2017) reports that a third (and in some cases two-thirds) of women are believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual and psychological violence carried out primarily by husbands, partners and fathers while girls are often forced into early marriage and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands. More pathetic is the revelation of gross under reporting and non documentation of domestic violence due to cultural factors (Afrolnews, 2018). There have been reports of cases of husbands killing and maiming their wives in the media. The statistics presented by This Day (2020) newspaper are daunting. About 50% of women have been battered by their husbands. Shockingly, more educated women (65%) are in this terrible situation as compared with their low income counterparts (55%). Most endure, believing they have nowhere to go and in any case, believing, for good reason, that the law will not protect them. Staggering 97.2% of them are not prepared to report to the Nigeria Police (Fareo, 2015).

Domestic violence against men deals with domestic violence experienced by men or boys in an intimate relationship such as marriage, cohabitation, dating, or within a family. Male victims of intimate partner violence have become a serious issue in the United States. According to Menard (2009), approximately 3.8 women and 1.3 men per 1,000 are victims of intimate partner violence each year. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (2007) noted that each year approximately 1,181 women and 329 men are victims of intimate partner homicides. Even though the numbers are not as high for men as for women, these victims cannot be ignored. Domestic violence is a reality in many parts of the world. However, domestic violence is mostly seen as synonymous with violence against women. Women only, are often perceived to be the victims of domestic violence, and men as the perpetrators, while most men victims continued to suffer in silence from their intimate partners. The Nigeria society is a highly patriarchal one, in which men have bloated egos. Though there is a prevalence of domestic violence against women in Nigeria as many women have died, brutalized or maimed for life by their violent male counterparts, however, there is also a prevalence of domestic violence against men, which has largely remained under-reported. According to Watts and Zimmermann (2002), the under-reporting of domestic violence is almost universal and may be due to the sensitive nature of the subject. Husband punching, slapping, kicking, nail scratching, sex deprivation and killing are realities that occur in Nigeria.

The tragedy is that men who find themselves in this situation hide and do not talk openly about their experience, as talking about it will bruise their ego and expose them to ridicule in a patriarchal society. I was beaten by my wife is a misnomer! It is unheard of in a male egoistic society. Hence such men prefer to suffer in silence until it becomes critical to the point of likely death (Abayomi, 2014).

Empirical research has long confirmed that the mass media are the major sources of information about world events. The preference and perception of media and its contents by the audience is mostly determined by the trust the people have for the media. In a democracy, the press is expected to be the people's voice; expressing their concerns, providing information they need, and allowing channels for discussion and debate (McQuail, 2005).

Despite media reportage, belief exists that the scourge and its nature is underreported, therefore the study tends to consider the role of different newspapers in maintaining a social narrative about domestic violence in different forms with a view to ascertaining if the media (newspapers) have done enough in setting agenda through different editorial contents as part of their social responsibility to the society. This research work wants to focus on the actual reportage of domestic violence on Nigerian newspapers so as to know the prevalence of the reported occurrences of domestic violence in the Nigerian Newspapers.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1. Determine the frequency of coverage given to domestic violence in Nigerian Tribune and The Punch Newspapers from March to August 2023.
2. Find out the level of prominence given to domestic violence stories in Nigerian Tribune and The Punch Newspaper from March to August 2023.
3. Find out the depth of coverage of domestic violence in the Punch and Nigerian Tribune Newspapers from March to August 2023.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Domestic Violence: A Conceptual Clarification

Domestic violence is an abuse of the fundamental human right of the victim and an abuse of power in a relationship displayed by assertions of verbal, physical, emotional and psychological control. It is a form of abusive behaviour in any relationship that is used by one partner to maintain a sense of control over the other. It repeats itself in a cycle of events which, in the absence of any intervention could spread out of control. It occurs without regard to race, age, sexual orientation or religion. According to Nwakwo (2003) domestic violence is the intentional and persistent abuse of anyone in the home in a way that causes pain, distress or injury, it is a common occurrence throughout Nigeria and “wears many faces”, it involves disrespect and powerlessness that runs through women’s lives. Scott and Marshall argued that domestic violence is specifically male violence against women; they argued further that it is a reflection of gender inequalities in power and of women oppression.

In Nigeria, many women are brutally treated by their intimate partners who in some cases lead to the death of such women. Domestic violence affects all social groups and can consist of physical, sexual and psychological abuse. The level of violence against women in Nigeria is increasing by the day with one out of every three women in certain communities experiencing violence in the family (WHO 2015). Many women do not report the abuse as they are ashamed that their marriages are not working and for most women in Nigeria, divorce is not an option at all, so they suffer in silence. It is against this background that the researcher looks into cases of domestic violence against women in Nigeria as reported in the three national dailies selected, looking at the types, causes, effects, management and to describe the evidence regarding the reportage of domestic violence issues in Nigerian National Dailies In doing so, there will be an analysis of the nature and extent of current research on domestic violence cases. Domestic violence is known with various names such as intimate partner violence and gender based violence. In the course of this study, the names will be used interchangeably with the use of acronyms DV for Domestic Violence, IPV Intimate Partner Violence and GBV as Gender Based Violence.

Domestic Violence has been defined by the World Health Organization WHO (2011) as the range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against women by current or former male intimate partners. Whilst women, men, boys and

girls can be victims of domestic violence; women and girls are disproportionately affected.

Intimate partner violence IPV is a global concern with a significant public health impact. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines IPV as any behavior within an intimate relationship by an intimate partner that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm to those in the relationship. It is one of the most common types of violence experienced by women. Most reported cases of IPV are perpetrated by men towards women although men can be victims of IPV.

Gender-based violence, or GBV, is one of the most oppressive forms of gender inequality, posing a fundamental barrier to the equal participation of women and men in social, economic, and political spheres. As noted in “Voice and Agency: Empowering Women and Girls for Shared Prosperity,” the World Bank’s Inter Agency Standing Committee defines GBV as “an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females” (Klugman et al. 2014). GBV affects both men and women, but women are much more vulnerable because violence reflects and reinforces existing gender inequalities.

Domestic Violence against women

‘Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women....’ [UN, 1993]. Violence against women had been defined as any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or in private life [WHO, 1996]. The definition connotes that violence against women is a form of social injustice by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared to men.

Domestic violence is a form of violence that occurs in a situation of intimate or family relationship. Females usually are often victims of this form of violence. Therefore, domestic violence can be defined as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and verbal abuse between people who have at sometime had an intimate or family relationship. This study is concerned with domestic violence against women in an intimate or family relationship. This would exclude childhood abuse which could also be seen as a form of domestic violence in the context of above definition. The statistics presented by This Day (2011) newspaper is that about 50% of women have been battered by their husbands.

Around the world, at least one out of three women is beaten, coerced into sex otherwise abused during her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own

family (WHO, 2004). Most issues of gender based domestic violence have been centered on men as the perpetrators of domestic violence. However, this is not to deny that cases of men being victims of domestic violence do exist. Men can be and frequently are also victims of abuse in the home at the hands of their female partners.

Domestic violence against men

Domestic violence against men is a term describing violence that is committed against men by the man's intimate partner. It is a rare finding (Adebayo 2013). Even though there have been so much hues and cries about domestic violence against women across the globe, domestic violence against men is a reality. It occurs virtually in every society in varying degrees. The problem in conducting studies that seek to describe violence in terms of gender is the amount of silence, fear and shame that results from abuse within families and relationships. This is why domestic violence against men remains largely unreported (Thompson 1999). According to a 2004 survey in Canada, the percentages of males being physically or sexually victimized by their partners was 6% versus 7% for women. However, females reported higher levels of repeated violence and were more likely than men to experience serious injuries; 23% of females versus 15% of males were faced with the most serious forms of violence including being beaten, choked, or threatened with or having a gun or knife used against them. Also, 21% of women versus 11% of men were likely to report experiencing more than 10 violent incidents.

Domestic violence against men has been on steady increase in Kenya and its assuming a worrisome dimension. It has been reported that in 2011, almost five hundred thousand men were beaten by their wives in Kenya. The rising cases of husband battery are blamed on increasing "female superiority complex".

According to Robert (2012), the BBC reported that a men's group in Kenya named Maendeleo Ya Wanaume ("Progress for Men") announced an initiative to protest what is becoming a growing problem of female perpetrated domestic abuse in that country. The protest will entail a nationwide boycott of meals made by their wives and partners and is supposed to encourage men to eat away from home together and share their experiences with domestic abuse whether physical or emotional. In Kenyan culture, eating your wife's meal is said to be a very important part of a man's expression of appreciation for his wife. Paul Dienne (2009) in his study on domestic violence against men in primary care Port Harcourt revealed that Over a 5-year (2000-2005) review period, a total of 220,073 patients' records were seen out of which 73 were deficient of the required information. There were 70,400 (32%) males and 149,600 (68%) females. A total of 48 victims of domestic violence were identified of which 5 (10.4%) were males. The prevalence of domestic violence in the clinic was 0.022%. The prevalence of domestic violence against men was 0.0023%.

In addition, violence among both men and women is a universal problem in many countries. Physical violence in particular is very common among intimate partners in both developed and developing countries. Physical violence includes but is not limited to, scratching, pushing, shoving, throwing, grabbing, biting, choking, shaking, slapping, punching, burning, use of a weapon and use of restraints or one's body size or strength against another person. Physical violence occurs across society regardless of age, gender, race, sexually, wealth and geography. It affects both males and females in an intimate relationship in form of threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life (United Nations, 2017).

Violence against men and women is an enduring social problem of concern for victims, advocacy groups, law-makers, scholars and the wider community. While a daily struggle in the lives of some and an ongoing professional consideration for many, the issue is often brought to wider public attention through various media, including newspapers, televisions, films and increasing online and social media and there is need for advocacy by media and groups to sensitize the society on its danger on good family living so as to stem to tide or eradicate it completely in the society.

TYPES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Different forms of abuse that an individual may be subjected to in the home include:

Physical abuse: This is the use of physical force in a way that injures the victim or puts him/her at risk of being injured. It includes beating, kicking, knocking, punching, choking, and confinement. Female genital mutilation is physical abuse. Physical abuse is one of the commonest forms of abuse. Obi & Ozumba (2007) found that 83% of respondents in their study reported physical abuse.

Sexual abuse: Sexual violence as defined based on WHO study (WHO, 2005) include being physically forced to have sexual intercourse against her will, having sexual intercourse because she was afraid of what her partner might do, being forced to do something sexual she found degrading or humiliating, sexual assaults, harassment or exploitation. It involves forcing a person to participate in sexual activity, using a child for sexual purposes including child prostitution and pornography. Marital rape also comes under this.

Neglect: This includes failure to provide for dependants who may be adults or children, denying family members food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and protection from harm or a sense of being loved and valued.

Economic abuse: This includes stealing from or defrauding a loved one, withholding money for essential things like food and medical treatment, manipulating or exploiting family member for financial gain, preventing a loved one from working or controlling his/he choice of occupation. **Spiritual Abuse:** This includes preventing a

person from engaging in his or her spiritual or religious practices or using ones religious beliefs to manipulate, dominate or control his or her partner.

Emotional Abuse: This includes threatening a person or his or her possession or harming a person's sense of self-worth by putting him/her at risk of serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional or mental disorders. Shouting at a partner which was found to be the most common abuse by Obi and Ozunba (2007) is included. Also included in emotional abuse are name-calling, criticism, social isolation, intimidating or exploitation to dominate, routinely making unreasonable demand, terrorizing a person verbally or physically and exposing a child to violence.

FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE THE OCCURRENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

There are certain factors that make an individual become a perpetrator or victim of domestic violence. They are as follows.

Social norms: The social context of violence in Nigeria is based largely on its patriarchal society. Violence against a wife is seen as a tool that a husband uses to chastise his wife and to improve her. The common loss of women's rights upon marriage in Sub-Saharan Africa and the implicit obedience and deference towards men is socially encouraged within the society. The Yoruba women refer to their husbands as "olowo ori mi" meaning "the one who paid my bride price". In effect, marriage gives up a woman's right to herself. In practices where a bride price is paid, it is common for the husband to believe that by paying the bride price, he now owns his wife. The act of marriage is seen to give the husband full ownership of the woman.

Gender roles: An economically active woman may attain some financial independence, but this does not translate into a change in her social role as the provider of care for the household. Boys are taught to be aggressive due to their role as protectors. They are raised to carry out strenuous tasks, such as hunting, shooting with bows and arrows, farming, and protecting the family. Girls are raised to perform more subservient tasks, such as sweeping, scrubbing walls, and collecting firewood. They are taught to cook for the family so that they can become good wives and mothers in the future. When a woman deviates from this role, either by contributing more to the household income than her husband or by neglecting her wifely duties, such as cooking, caring for children, or having sex with her husband, it can lead to tension and conflict. However, the recent economic recession, which affected many families, did allow some space for women to participate in economic activity and contribute more to household incomes.

Alcohol or Narcotic abuse: Because of alcohol and narcotic abuse, people are more often involved in violent behaviours as they are unable to control their violent impulses. Unfortunately, drug abuse is widespread in Nigeria and this is one of the reasons domestic violence is common.

Psychological disorder or personality disorder: There are many cases where people do not know that they have some psychological disorder which can make them to be volatile and due to poverty, many people cannot consult with a psychiatrist and many disorder remain undiagnosed. Such disorder can make people aggressive and dangerous not only for their families but the society as a whole.

Financial Factor: The Center for Health Ethics Law and Development (CHELD), a group comprising lawyers, doctors, health professionals, social scientists, economists, public health specialists, gender specialists and statisticians that promote public health in Nigeria and other African countries, believe many cases of violence against women in Nigeria are influenced by financial factors.

In its 2015 report on Violence Against Women in Nigeria and the Need for a Women's Fund, CHELD noted that these factors range from husbands preventing their wives from working or denying them funds for necessities such as children's school fees, health services and even food.

Media in Nigeria is replete with stories of gender-based violence at home or in the streets, many of these with gory endings.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Agenda Setting

The theory of agenda-setting can be traced to the first chapter of Walter Lippmann's 1922 book, *Public Opinion*. In that chapter, "The World Outside The Pictures In Our Heads," Lippmann argues that the mass media are the principal connection between events in the world and the images in the minds of the public. Without using the term "agenda-setting," Walter Lippmann was writing about what we today would call "agenda-setting."

Following Lippmann, Bernard Cohen (1963), observed that the press "may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think, but it is stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about. The world will look different to different people," Cohen continues, "depending on the map that is drawn for them by writers, editors, and publishers of the paper they read." As early as the 1960s, Cohen had expressed the idea that later led to formalization of agenda-setting theory by McCombs and Shaw.

Agenda-setting theory describes the ability of the news media to influence the salience of topics on the public agenda. That is, if a news item is covered frequently and prominently the audience will regard the issue as more important. Agenda-setting theory was formally developed by McCombs and Donald Shaw in a study on the 1968 American presidential election. In the 1968 "Chapel Hill study," McCombs and Shaw demonstrated a strong correlation coefficient ($r > .9$) between what 100 residents of

Chapel Hill, North Carolina thought was the most important election issue and what the local and national news media reported was the most important issue.

It is expedient to know that agenda setting is the creation of public awareness and concern of salient issues by the news media. Bernard Cohen (1963) quoted in Mc Combs and Shaw (2004) stated that “the press may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think, but it is stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about”

In the word of McCombs, Shaw & Weaver (2014), ‘agenda’ is seen as selection of news item about current issues that assign those items varying degrees of exposures. They postulated further that agenda theory means the news media represent to the world as it is with an agenda of its own selection of reports about what is happening in the world.

Agenda setting theory is relevant to this study as media salience on an issue leads to discourse by the public based on the frequency and prominence of the reportage by Nigerian newspapers as it is believed what the media give importance to via coverage is what becomes topic of discussion in the public and that is why the study tend to investigate the level of prominence, frequency and depth with which Nigerian newspapers covered the cases of domestic violence in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

Examination of newspapers coverage of domestic violence cases in Nigeria is the focus of this study. And going by this, the most suitable research method with is content analysis.

The populations of the study were all the National Dailies in Nigeria. The sample newspapers which were purposively selected due to much circulation strength and coverage of the issues relating to domestic violence in Nigeria were the daily publications of Nigerian Tribune and The Punch Newspapers from March to August 2023. Three hundred and sixty eight (368) editions of newspapers were randomly selected which includes weekend editions. Each newspaper has one hundred and eighty four (184) editions.

The unit of analysis upon which this study was premised were; Straight news, Editorial, Features, Pictures/Caroons and Opinion/Letter to the Editor. The data collection instruments were coding Manual (Guide) and Coding sheet (coding scheme). The data analysis for this study was done using the descriptive analysis.

Data Analysis

RQ1: What is the frequency of coverage given to domestic violence in Nigerian Tribune and The Punch Newspapers?

Table 1:- Summary of types of reports and their frequency of occurrences in the selected newspapers

Forms of reports	Nigerian Tribune	Percentage	The Punch	Percentage
News stories	21	66%	12	63%
Features	5	16%	2	11%
Editorials	-	-	-	-
Letter to the Editor	-	-	-	-
Pictures	3	9%	4	21%
Cartoon	-	-	-	-
Opinion Article	3	9%	1	5%
Total	32 (63%)	100%	19 (37%)	(N 51) 100%

Source: Field Work, 2023.

Table 1 above represented the total number of stories on domestic violence in the selected 368 editions of the newspapers under review so as to determine how frequently the issue was reported and the form in which the story was presented in the newspapers. The total news on domestic violence between March and August 2023 was 51. When analyzed individually, The Nigeria Tribune recorded 32 of the total news items representing 63% while The Punch had 19 news items representing 37%.

RQ2: What is the level of prominence given to domestic violence stories in Nigerian Tribune and The Punch Newspapers?

Table 2:- Placement of reports in the Nigeria Tribune and the Punch newspapers

2023 Months	Pages	Tribune	Punch	Total	Percentage
March	Front page Inside page Back page	- 4 -	- 5 -	9	18%
April	Front page Inside page Back page	- 10 -	- 4 -	14	27%
May	Front page Inside page Back page	- 7 -	- 4 -	11	22%
June	Front page	-	-	3	6%

	Inside page	2	1		
	Back page	-	-		
July	Front page	-	-	8	16%
	Inside page	5	3		
	Back page	-	-		
August	Front page	-	-	6	11%
	Inside page	4	2		
	Back page	-	-		
Total		32	19	51	100%

Source: Field Work, 2023

Table 2 revealed that the majority of news stories were hidden in the inside pages as none appeared on the front and back pages. The inside page of the Nigerian Tribune has 32 stories while the Punch newspaper has 19 stories. In the month of March, there were 4 stories from the Nigerian Tribune and 5 from the Punch newspaper that makes a total of 9 which makes it 18 percent of the stories reported. In the month of April, 10 stories were reported in the inside page of the Nigerian Tribune and 4 stories from the Punch Newspaper that makes it a total of 14 which constitutes 27% of the data gathered. The month of May recorded 7 news stories from the inside page of Nigerian Tribune and 4 stories from the punch which brings it to a total of 11 that makes 22% of the data while June has the lowest record of 2 stories in the Nigerian Tribune and 1 story in the Punch which makes a total of 3 representing 6%.

In the month of July, 5 stories made the news stand in the Nigerian Tribune and 3 stories in the Punch Newspaper that makes a total of 8 stories from both newspapers representing 16% from the data. August had a total of 6 news stories with 4 from Nigerian Tribune and 2 from the Punch newspaper representing 11%.

RQ3. What is the depth of coverage of domestic violence stories reported in the Punch and Nigerian Tribune?

Table 3.1- Depth of coverage (in terms of space) for the Nigerian Tribune

Depth of Coverage	Nigerian Tribune	Percentage
Full Page	-	-
Half Page	18	56%
Combined Page	8	26%
More than half page	6	18%
More than one page	-	-
Total	32	100%

Source: Field Work, 2023.

Table 3.1 revealed the depth of coverage given to stories of domestic violence in the Nigerian Tribune in terms of placement of the story on the pages of the newspaper

and the space allotted to them. The newspaper presented most of the stories in the half page as 18 of the 32 stories reported during the months under review which makes 56% of the total stories took the half page space. 8 of the domestic violence cases reported were presented on the combined page which makes it 26% of the stories reported while 6 of the stories that make 18% of the total stories were given more than half page space. However the Nigerian Tribune did not give full page space and more than one page space to any of the stories on domestic violence reported.

Table 3.2:- Depth of coverage (in terms of space) for the Punch Newspaper

Depth of Coverage	Nigerian Tribune	Percentage
Full Page	8	42%
Half Page	4	21%
Combined Page	-	-
More than half page	7	37%
More than one page	-	-
Total	19	100%

Source: Field Work, 2023.

Table 3.2 showed the depth of coverage given to stories of domestic violence in the Punch Newspaper in terms of placement of the story on the pages of the newspaper and the space allotted to them. 8 of the 19 stories reported during the months under review which makes 42% of the total stories were presented on full page while 7 of the domestic violence cases reported were presented on more than half page which makes it 37% of the stories reported and 4 of the stories that make 21% of the total stories were given than half page space. However the Punch newspaper did not give combined page and more than one page space to any of the stories on domestic violence reported.

Discussion of findings

From the tables above, it is evident that Nigerian Tribune Newspaper reported more stories on Domestic Violence when compared with that of The Punch Newspaper. A total of 51 news stories were published by the two newspapers in the six month editions reviewed of the occurrence of domestic violence in Nigeria with an average of six cases per month in Nigerian Tribune and three cases reported in The Punch newspaper per month. Three hundred and sixty eight (368) newspaper editions were selected from Nigerian Tribune and The Punch newspapers. Looking at the frequency given to the reportage of domestic violence cases in the Nigerian Tribune in relation to the informative role of the media the Nigerian Tribune has reported more cases of domestic violence which is corroborated by the study of Abolaji Azeez (2016) Gender Based Violence Experiences And Reaction in Ibadan Metropolis in Nigeria which indicates that “a large majority (78.4%) of graduate respondents were reportedly aware of gender violence, followed by 68.4% with higher degrees. However, the level

of awareness of gender violence was low among respondents (16.7%) who had only primary education as most of them cannot read newspapers”.

The punch Newspaper’s reportage of Domestic Violence cases is not as much as that of Nigerian Tribune. Paul Dienye (2009) Domestic Violence against men in primary care in Nigeria recorded a low occurrence of Gender based violence. “The low prevalence in our study could be attributed to the fact that it is a hospital-based retrospective study as compared with the community-based prospective studies involving large population with resultant reduced sampling error and concomitant increase in prevalence figures. Battered husbands cut across all ages, educational levels, and socioeconomic classes. Male victims of domestic violence deserve the same recognition, sympathy, support, and services as do female victims.

On prominence, the both newspapers failed to publish any news story or even promo headline on Domestic Violence incidence on their front page major and front page minor. However, they gave space in their inside major and inside minor pages to Domestic Violence cases.

The Punch newspaper gave more space to the cases of domestic violence reported in terms of giving it a full page compared with the Nigerian Tribune that did not dedicate the full page to any story on domestic violence cases. Both newspapers dedicated more than half a page to reports on domestic violence while neither the Punch nor the Nigerian Tribune presented the stories on more than one page.

Conclusion

The study concluded that The Punch and Nigerian Tribune newspapers did not do an adequate job in informing the public about domestic violence by frequently writing on them as salience was low during the study period and prominence, frequency and depth of coverage were low which did not adequately place domestic violence discourse as a public agenda.

Recommendations

1. Continued salience of domestic violence on a proactive basis especially coverage that gives more prominence and frequency of reportage to cases of domestic violence by Nigerian newspapers can call attention to the menace by reducing its occurrence or eradicate its occurrence in the society.
2. The study therefore recommended that the media should enlighten the public about domestic violence and its impact on family and the society at large.
3. Newspaper editors should consider writing editorials on domestic violence as there was no single editorial on domestic violence cases in either of the two newspapers reviewed. Editorial can help spread more awareness and campaign against domestic violence to readers in order to influence members of the society thereby reducing the scourge to its barest minimum.

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