

AN ASSESSMENT OF NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF GENDER VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

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Abstract

This study investigated newspaper coverage of gender violence in Nigeria with specific attention on, frequency, depth, and prominence. Two newspapers- The Daily Trust and the Daily Sun-were purposively selected for the study. The study duration was 24 months while content analysis was adopted as the study design. Result showed, among others, that the frequency of coverage of gender violence by the two newspapers within the study duration is 43%. Result of this study further revealed that 24.4% of the stories from the two newspapers on gender violence within the study duration were on front page, 31.1% 32.2% and 12.2% were on inside page, back page and centre spread in that order. The result of this study has implications on the quest to reduce cases of gender based violence in Nigeria as it provides evidence on the how The Daily Trust and The Daily Sun in particular and Nigerian newspapers in general have contributed against the fight against violence against persons on the basis of their gender. Based on the result of this study, the researcher recommends, among others that, Nigerian newspapers should improve in their coverage of gender violence with a view to promoting a gender violence free society.

Keywords: Coverage, Gender Frequency, Depth, Newspaper, Prominence, Violence

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1. Introduction

The mass media is classified into broadcast and print media. For every society to thrive and achieve her national goals, its media must be functional enough to provide up-to-date information of the happening within and across her boundaries. Mass media perform a plethora

of function within the society be it cardinal or social. The press-newspapers and magazines are supposed to be the people's conscience, watch dog of the society, agenda setters, mouth piece and voice of the voiceless. This partly explains why Gever (2013) describes the press as the oxygen of the society. In his argument, Gever contends that a society without a virile press cannot stand. This proposition is relevant to the current study because it helps in explaining the place of the press in combating issues of gender based violence. Through its surveillance function, the press scans the environment and reports the happenings for appropriate change of action. As the conscience of the society, the press makes judgment on events and cases based on information they gather. In this regard, they act as the social conscience of the society. This conscience tells them what is right or what they believe is right or wrong.

As the watch – dog of the society, the press watches over people, institutions and government to make sure they do not infringe on people's right, act as the watch dog and not lap dog, press makes sure that no ill befalls any member of the society on the account of any act or omission by the government and private individuals. This is to make sure that no misdemeanour either by the government or private individuals affects the society (Carratalá 2016).

The press does not only raise the issue of importance but determines the direction the discussion should go. This is in line with Bernard Cohen's assertion "the press may not be successful most of the time in telling people what to think but they are stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about" (Ukonu 2006). In other words, the press initiates and shapes topics to be discussed and the angles of discussion through the prominence they attach to the reports, frequency of report and cumulate media specific effect over time. One of the issues in contemporary society begging for attention is that of gender based violence.

Gender violence is an ill treatment meted out on individual based on their- gender male or female. Jekayinfa (nd) avers that gender-based violence is a universal reality existing in all societies regardless of income, class and culture and that it would be difficult to find one woman, whom at one time or the other in her lifetime had not been afraid merely because she was a woman. The UN General Assembly, in adopting the 1993 declaration on the elimination of violence against women defined gender-based violence to include:

any act of violence that results 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 private life (Population Reference Bureau, 2001.3).

Based on the definition above, it can be said that the scope of gender based violence goes beyond the physical, it also covers the psychological stress. Gender violence affects the victim psychologically, physically and socially. Gender based violence inhibits the victims participation in politics, social activities and economic pursuit that will ultimately lead to socio-economic development. This is because only the male folk will strive to make ends meet leaving the female folk who can contribute in no small measure to national development. It is pertinent to note that gender-based violence and violence against women are often used interchangeable as most of gender-based violence is inflicted by men on women and girls. It is estimated that 20 to 25% of women in Europe have suffered physical violence. The number of women who have suffered from other forms of gender based violence is much higher (Council of Europe Combating Violence against Women 2006). It is worthy to note that there are distinct factors of violence against males and females. Factors may include; young age, income, divorced or separated, prior victimization informal education of partners, population, culture etc. Coomaraswamy cited in Salami (2000), identified some additional violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms such as the trafficking in women and girls for sex trade, forced prostitution, rape, sexual abuse and sex tourism that have become the focus of internationally organized crimes. Newspaper coverage of gender based violence is therefore very important.

Newspaper coverage describes the attention given to an issue by the newspaper. Asemah (2011) defines newspaper coverage as the attention given to a particular event by newspapers. Olijó (2016) lists common indicators of measuring newspaper coverage are frequency, which is the number of times newspapers report a particular event, volume or depth of coverage usually determined with regards to whether the issues are of full page, half page or quarter page. Stories on full page are normally considered to have received more volume/depth than those on half page while those on half page are usually considered to have received more volume/depth than those on quarter page.

Also, prominence describes the importance attached to the events reported usually determined by placement of the story. It is against this backdrop that this study sought to investigate the coverage of gender based violence in the Nigerian press.

Problems of the Study

The increasing cases of gender based violence in Nigeria is suggestive of the fact that efforts aimed at solving this social problems have not yielded the desired results. This is more

so that elimination of gender violence remains one of the social problems globally. Consequently, the campaign against gender based violence has edged to an eventual boom. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that at least, one in every five of the world's female population has been physically or sexually abused at some time. Researchers, especially those from psychology, have argued that violence against women has a way of negatively affecting their psyche and general contribution to the society. This thus makes the issue desiring press attention. However, even though gender based violence events have taken place in the Nigerian society, the manner of coverage given to the issue is still problematic. This is more so that the press has a responsibility to set positive agenda to the Nigerian society. The problem of this study posed as a question is, what is newspaper coverage of gender based violence in Nigeria?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to ascertain press coverage of gender violence. Specifically, the study seeks to achieve the following:

1. To find out how often selected newspapers covered gender violence in Nigeria.
2. To ascertain the extent of coverage of gender violence by selected newspapers in Nigeria.
3. To examine the relevance given to the coverage of gender violence by selected newspapers in Nigeria.

Research Questions

This study seeks answers to the following questions

1. How often did the selected newspapers' cover gender violence in Nigeria?
2. What is the depth of coverage of gender violence by selected newspapers' in Nigeria?
3. What relevance have the selected newspapers given to the coverage of gender violence in Nigeria?

2. Gender Based Violence in Nigeria

Gender violence has at one point or the other taken place in Nigeria. This violence is usually perpetuated against women which ranges from rape to sexual abuse, to wife battering among

others. A glance through the pages of Nigerian newspapers will reveal headlines like, “32 year old rapes minor,” “father rapes granddaughter,” “husband beats wife to death” among others. These headlines suggest the prevalence of gender based violence in Nigeria. The prevalence of these headlines suggests the commonness of gender based violence in Nigeria. Ebhohimen (2015) regretted that the cases of gender based violence have become common in Nigeria such that some of them go unnoticed. Universally, studies about gender based violence have taken the angle of the women. Uwameiye and Iserameiya (2013) noted that gender based violence normally takes place against women and further lists the violence to include rape physical attack by their husband, verbal attack, incest, female genital mutilation, forced marriage, child marriage, denial of right to choose spouse, denial of the right to own a property, refusal to permit women to work or to control their own income, refusing the girl child to go to school. Uwameiye and Iserameiya also regretted that in some instances, women are denied the free will to relate with others in the society perceive women as worthless or inferior to men, girls trafficking for the purpose of being used as commercial sex workers and inhuman widow hood rites.

There are examples of gender based violence in Nigeria. One of such example is the case of man from Enugu who beats his wife to death. It was reported that the man, identified as Charle Oyibo who was said to be 50 old age hailed from Aku, Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu state. The deceased identified as Mrs. Angela Oyibo was said to be 36 years old. The Vanguard newspaper captures this thus:

A middle-aged man at Aku, Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu State allegedly beat his wife to death over a misunderstanding. The deceases identified as Mrs. Angela Oyibo, 36 was said to have engaged her husband, Charles Oyibo 50, in a heated argument. He allegedly pounced on her and gave her a beating of her life (Ozo 2015 para 1).

The submission above is just one out of many that take place in Nigerian society. Squabbles among couples that could be amicably resolved with simple words of apology often result to physical assault and sometimes, death as in the case of Angela Oyibo. One example of gender based violence is the case of the Bayelsan Ese Oruru. The story of the 14 year old girl was a clear case of violent because she was forcefully married off by one Yunusa from Kano. The incidence was said to have taken place on August 12, 2015. The girl said to be the daughter of one Mrs. Rose Oruru, a food vendor in Opolo, Yenagoa Local Government Area of Bayelsa State was said to always accompany her mother to their shop. That day, she had gone to the

market and left her four children at her shop. She returned to find out that her daughter, Ese, was allegedly abducted by one Yinusa, aka Yellow, who is one of her long standing customers (Utebor 2016). It took the intervention of the Inspector General of Police Solomon Arase, the Emir of Kano Mohammed Sanusi II and other well-meaning Nigeria before Ese was released in February, 2016 after alleged force conversion from Christianity to Islam. With regards to this issue, the Punch newspaper deserves mention because the newspaper launched and promoted the “Free Ese Campaign” Even after she gained freedom, the newspaper continued to seek for justice for her.

Gender based violence is not only perpetuated against women, men also suffer gender based violence. However, it is unarguably that women are often disproportionately affected. K. Animasaun and Y Animasaun (2013) corroborate that gender based violence is not gender or location specific, that gender based violence are not limited to feminine issues men also suffer gender based violence. A good example of violence against men is the case of a man from Ibadan who was allegedly stabbed to death by his wife. The story of the Lawyer is here replicated:

Woman stabs husband to death in Ibadan over claims he fathered son out of wedlock

A certain man identified as Oye Lowo Ajanaku Ayediran was Monday, stabbed to death by his wife, Yewande Ayediran nee Fatoki, in Ibadan, Oyo state capital. According to reports on Havilah Magazine, Yewande, a lawyer, is the daughter of one Honorable Fatoki and had been married to Ayediran for three years without a child. On Monday night, she heard her husband had a son outside wedlock.

This, reports alleged generated into a heated argument between the couple which resulted in a squabble and the eventual stabbing of her husband on the shoulder. Oye had gone to the hospital to be treated and the stab wound on the right shoulder was stitched. Thereafter, he went home to sleep. However, at the early hours of Tuesday morning while he was still sleeping due to the effect of the drugs he had taken, his wife reportedly slaughtered him and locked the door refusing to call for help and ignoring his weak plea for help. After a while, reports say his aggrieved wife called on the Landlady who upon response saw him in the pool of his own blood. He died few minutes later. The lady, having the powerful backing of her family is reportedly on the run and hiding from the police. According to claims by her alleged powerful political family, she is mentally unstable. The general belief is that the Fatokis are presently using all their influence to cover the story surrounding the death of the deceased. As at press time, the story has taken a new dimension as Yewande is allegedly claiming to be innocent. Meanwhile, there is yet to be any official confirmation of the incident from the police

Source: *Daily post* February 3, 2016

The story above is a clear case of gender based violence because the reason for the alleged killing of the victim was because the wife felt he (the man) should not have another son outside of their marriage. Therefore, anything on the contrary is an offence deserving death. This could just be out of many cases of violent against men that take place in Nigeria on a daily basis.

In an effort to reduce the cases of gender based violence, the Nigerian government has come up with policy plans to promote gender equality. Nigeria's first attempt at ensuring gender equality began in 2000 when it adopted and passed into law the National Policy on women guided by the global instrument on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Therefore, the National Gender Policy (2006, p. xxvi) identifies the following as central in the march to gender equality.

- Decentralization of the mandate for gender equality to all institutions of governance and to all stakeholders.
- Promotion of gender mainstreaming as an institutional programme and societal & culture.
- Gender monitoring with all macro-policies.
- Institutionalization of the training and research in gender and development policy.
- Financial sustainability for gender equality policies and programmes (i.e. a gender responsible budgeting in all government institutions and the private sector.
- Political will for implementation of gender equality policies, without which a national reorientation and commitment to gender equality becomes difficult to achieve.

Despite the existence of this policy, cases of gender based violence have continued to persist in Nigeria. Each day, the press is awash with one form of gender based violence or the other.

3. Review of Empirical Studies

In this segment of the study, the researcher reviewed previous studies that are related to the current study either in content or design. First, K. Animasaun and Y. Animasaun (2013) did a study on 'Dimensions of gender based violence in Africa: the common and the induced.' Through a random sampling technique, four newspapers- *Tribune, the Guardian, Vanguard and the Punch*- were selected for the study while content analysis was used for the study which codes were categorized as: Victim of violence; form of violence and the gender inflicting the violence. Result of the researchers showed that Nigeria Tribune had 57.1% of the victims of violence as women while 42.9% were men. K. Animasaun and Y. Animasaun also found that

85% of the perpetrators of violence, were men while only 14.3% were found to be women. Furthermore, *The Guardian* newspaper was found to have 50% each for female and male as victims of violence. However, all the inflictions were found to have been perpetuated by men. The findings further showed *the Vanguard* newspaper 70% and 30% for female and male as victims of gender based violence respectively. The result of K. Animasaun and Y. Animasaun also showed that the men were guilty of committing the violence with 90% while the women had 10%. The forms of violence against women are found to be sexual assault, incest, murder, battering and ritual killing. On the other hand, the 10% women committed such offences as stabbing of husband, denial of food and sex. Findings also showed that *the Punch* newspaper had 75% of the women as victims of violence 25% men in the same category.

This study is relevant to the current study because it provides insight in the understanding of the nature of newspaper coverage of gender based violence in Nigeria. Although the result of this study is comprehensive, the researcher did not look at unit of analysis like frequency, prominence, and volume of coverage. The current study will fill this gap.

Also, Adika, Agada, Bodise-Ere and Ojokojo (2013) did a study to determine men's knowledge and attitude towards gender based violence. The study was conducted in Amarata community, Yenagoa of Bayelsa State. Descriptive survey was applied while the researchers used a multi- stage sampling technique to 200 men aged 25-55 years from an estimate of 1000 men within the study area. The researchers found that that 40% of the respondents have heard about gender violence. The result also showed that 16% of respondents practice gender based violence against women by beating up their wives in the house; 14% do not allowing women to express their sexual desires in their relationship. 20% do not allow women to handle leadership positions, and 50% make women to serve them all the time (even if she is sick). Result of the researchers also showed reasons for gender based as 30% of the respondents reported that women are the weaker sex and that should be controlled, 11% of the said the role of women in society is just to make the man happy, 34% said that women are not as men; while 10% reported that women do not deserve a self-worth as individuals and a further 15% were found to have said that women are being discriminated as result of cultural values. This study is relevant to the current study in content because it examined the prevalence of gender based violence as well as the reason for its practice. The researchers however, did not investigate newspaper coverage of this social ill, the current study will fill this gap.

4. Theoretical Framework

Theory is a set of systematic generalization based on scientific observation leading to further empirical observation. The study hinged on agenda setting, social responsibility, spiral, of silence and value charge theories. Agenda setting theory says that the press, just like in a meeting, can initiate the topic for discussion. Any issue that is not in the agenda will not be deliberated upon or taken serious. The same way the press can raise issues of importance for public discussion. The press also moderates and shapes the discussion.

The Elements Involved in Agenda setting

- The quality and frequency of reporting
- Prominence given to the reports
- The degree of conflict generated in the reports and
- Cumulative media specific effect over time (Folarin, in Wogu, 2008)

The press can also have as one of its important agenda, gender based violence, moderate and directs the discussion. This is because any issue considered important must be in the media.

The theory was proposed by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in 1972/1973 .The theory is important because it is a media effect theory. Although agenda setting theory has been subjected to criticisms as some scholars argue that the media cannot necessarily set agenda, studies have shown that the media actually do. For example a study conducted by Gever (2014,) on ‘A critical analysis of the agenda-setting-function of the mass media on Nigerian youths vis-a-vis national political issues.’ Gever tested 400 respondents in Enugu and found out significant relationship between exposure to the mass media and youth discussion of national political issues. Another practical example of the power of the media to set agenda is the case of the abduction of ESE Oruru. The 14 year old girl was adopted in November 2015 and remained in Kano where she was alleged to have been forcefully married to one Yunusa. But immediately *the Punch* newspaper launched a campaign on the 28th of February 2016 for here releases, she gained freedom the next day. Apart from *the Punch*, other newspapers also joined in the campaign and this prompted reactions from the authorities. This theory provides insight on the study of how Nigerian newspapers have set agenda on the issues relating to gender based violence in Nigeria.

5. Methodology

Sample Size/Technique

Two newspapers were purposively sample for this study. They are the *Daily Trust* and the *Daily Sun*. These papers were selected because of their national coverage, perceived popularity and accessibility. This study covered a period of 24 months beginning from 1st January, 2013 to 31st December, 2014. Through a statistical calculation, 1(one) edition was selected each week for each of the two papers. To arrive at the editions, the researcher adopted constructed week. Consequently, the days of the week were assigned numbers as Sunday-1, Monday-2, Tuesday-3, Wednesday-4 Thursday-5, Friday-6 and Saturday-7 and folded and put in a container labeled as the day-container. The 104 weeks were also numbered as 1-104 and put in another container, labeled as the week's container, and both were reshuffled. For each week that was picked from the container week, a day was also picked from the day container and this continued until 104 editions were arrived at from the two newspapers leading to a total of 208 editions put together. These editions were examined and stories on the gender violence were identified for analysis.

Unit of Measurement/Analysis

For easy measurement and analysis, the newspapers were divided into four parts and coded as X_1 (front pages), X_2 (inside pages), X_3 (editorial pages) and X_4 (back pages). The contents were coded as news items (N_1), features (N_2), opinion (N_3) editorial (N_4) and investigative reports (N_5). To determine the frequency of coverage of gender violence, the number of published reports on gender violence was considered within the study period. With regards to prominence, the placement of stories on the pages of newspapers was considered as a yardstick. As a result, X_1 (front pages) stories were considered as receiving more prominence than X_2 (inside pages) stories, the back. (X_4) stories were regarded as receiving more prominence than the inside stories. To properly measure prominence, the front pages were further divided into other categories as front page measure lead ($X_1 M_1$ and front page minor lead ($X_1 M_2$) and front page full story-when a story started and ended on front page- ($X_1 S_1$) and front page half story-when a story started but was continued on another page – ($X_1 S_2$) Therefore, $X_1 M_1$ (front page measure lead) and $X_1 S_1$ (front page full story) were considered more prominent on the front page than $X_1 M_2$ (front page minor lead) and $X_1 S_2$ (front page half story). Also, in considering front size (P_1) character type (P_o) and accompaniment-pictures, cartoons and diagrams (P_a). Front size and character type were considered as either normal-

conventional newspaper type (f_n/c_n) or special-non conventional newspaper style (f_s/n_s) Reports of (f_s/c_s) were considered to be of more prominence than those of (f_n/c_n). Also, where there was an accompaniment, the report was said to be of more prominence than those without accompaniment. In determining the prominence inside and at the back of the page of newspaper coverage of gender violence headline/title (major or minor coded as hm_1/hm_2), story size (full, S_f half, S_h , quarter, S_q or others so, when less than quarter) front sizes and character as well as accompaniment were considered as done on the front page. To determine the depth of coverage, the stories were coded as quarter page ‘Q1’ half page ‘Q2’ and full page ‘Q3’. Stories on quarter page were considered as having shallow depth than those of half page, those of full page were considered as having deeper depth than the other two. This was later placed in an ordinal scale for analysis simple percentages were used as method of data analysis.

6. Results

The statistical Package for social Sciences (SPSS) 16.0 was used to analyse data for this study. The result of this study shows that out of the 208 editions that were sampled, 90(43%) editions had satires on gender violence while the remaining 118(957%) had no story on gender violence at all. The table below shows story distribution.

Table: 1 showing the frequency of coverage of gender violence

Newspaper	Frequency	Percent
Trust	41	45.6
Daily Sun	49	54.4
Total	90	100.0

Source: Content analysis 20015

The result of this study shows that *Daily Sun* had more stories (45.6%) within the study period on gender violence than *Daily Trust*. Table II shows the depth of coverage of the issue by the two newspapers.

Table II: Depth of Coverage * Newspaper Cross Tabulation

	Newspaper		Total
	Daily Trust	Daily Sun	
Depth of full page Count coverage	7	13	20
% Total	7.8%	14.4%	22.2%
Half page Count	19	21	34
% Total	21.1%	16.7%	37.8%
Quarter page Count	15	15	36
% Total	16.7%	23.3%	40.0%
Total Count	41	49	90
% Total	45.6%	54.4%	100.0%

Source: Content Analysis 2015

Table II above shows that total number of stories within the study period on gender violence was full pages. This is made up of 7.8% from *Daily Trust* and 14.4% from *Daily Sun* respectively. The table further revealed that 21.1% and 16.7% of the stories on gender violence from *Daily Trust* and *Daily Sun* within the study period were on half pages. 16.7% and 23.3% of *Daily Trust* and *Daily Sun* stories within the study period were on quarter pages. Table III shows the prominence given to gender violence by both newspapers.

Table III: Prominence * Newspaper Cross Tabulation

	Newspaper		Total
	Daily Trust	Daily Sun	
Prominence front page Count	13	9	22
% Total	14.4%	10.0%	24.4%
Back page Count	14	15	29
% Total	15.6%	16.7%	32.2%
Inside page Count	15	13	28
% Total	16.7%	14.1%	31.1%
Centre spread Count	7	4	11
	7.8%	4.4%	12.2%
Total Count	49	41	90
% Total	54.4%	45.6%	100.0%

Source: Content Analysis 2015

The result of this study shows 14.4%, 15.6% 16.7 and 7.8% respective of *Daily Sun* stories were on front page, back page, inside and centre spread in that order while 10%, 14.4% and 4.4% of *Daily Sun* stories were on front page, back page, inside page and centre spread respectively.

7. Discussion of Findings

The discussion in this study was done in accordance with the research questions as shown below:

First Research Question: What is the frequency of selected newspapers' coverage of gender violence in Nigeria?

The result of this study shows that frequency of coverage of gender violence by the two newspapers within the study duration is 43%. This is made up 45.6% of *Daily Trust* and 54.4 *Daily Sun*. what this means is that *Daily Sun* had more stories on gender violence that *Daily Trust*. The result of this study shows that the both newspapers failed to set agenda on the problem of gender based violence. According to Folarin (1988,p.68) frequency of coverage is one of the main ways through which the media set agenda to the general public.

Second Research Question: What is the depth of coverage of gender violence by selected newspapers' in Nigeria? The result of this study shows that most (40.0%) of the stories on gender violence within the study duration were of quarter pages, 37.8% of them were on half pages and a few (22.2%) were full pages. The *Daily Sun* had 14.4% of its stories within the study duration on full pages than *Daily Trust* which has only 7.8%. Is very sad that Nigerian newspapers still have not given gender based violence the desired depth of coverage despite it danger to the Nigeria society. For example, a study conducted by Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with UNICEF in 2007 "Assessment of violence against Children at the basic Education Nigeria" shows that violence can influence school attendance. What this means therefore is that, newspapers in Nigeria have to gone beyond reporting gender based violence but also look at its negative implication to the general society, this cannot be effectively done when such stories are placed on half pages of newspapers.

Third Research Question: What is the prominence given to the coverage of gender violence by selected newspapers in Nigeria? Result of this study shows that 24.4% of the stories from the two newspapers on gender violence within the study duration were on front page, 32.2%

31.1%, and 12.2% were on back page, inside page and centre spread in that order. This means, most (32.2%) of the stories were on inside page, an indication of low prominence. Comparatively, *Daily Sun* gave more prominence to gender violence than the *Daily Trust* because the former had 14.4% of its stories on the front page and 15.6% on the back page as against *Daily Trust's* 10.0% and 16.7% in that order. The poor prominence given to the issue of gender based violence is worrisome because newspaper need to paint a vivid picture of gender based violence with a view to changing the tide. A recent publication by UNISCO on corporal punishment (Hart et al, 2005) pointed out that violence is more likely to compromise learning because it induces fear, anxiety and absenteeism as well as dropping out of school. This simply calls for the need for the media to accord the desired prominence on the problem of gender based violence to protect the rights of all persons irrespective of gender. The result of this study has implications on the quest for society free of gender based violence. This is because, it provides empirical evidence on the nature of coverage the two newspapers have so far given to the issue. This understanding will guide stakeholders who are interesting in combating gender based violence to take steps on how to achieve this goal. Therefore, it is expected that national Human Rights Commission as well as other non-governmental organizations will find this result useful in their bid to stem the tide of gender based violence in Nigeria. The researchers expected that such interest groups will better articulate a way of engaging newspapers in particular and the media in general, on how to report gender based violence after this result is published and made available for public consumption.

8. Conclusion and Recommendations

Gender Based Violence is not just local, but has become a global issue, it is a major public health problem. It is seen as a violation of human right that affect all ages and gender. Based on the result of this study, the researcher concludes that though gender violence is a very disturbing act in contemporary Nigeria, it is yet to receive the attention it deserves from the press. Nigerian newspapers have a social responsibility to report gender violence with a view to setting agenda on it. Gender violence has many negative implications to the Nigerian society which ranges from psychological disorder to physical deformity. The world is moving towards a gender friendly society and newspapers must move along through its coverage. Therefore, the study makes the following recommendations.

- Nigerian newspapers should improve in their coverage of gender violence with a view to setting agenda on it.

- There is need for the Nigerian Union of Journalists to regularly encourage its members to publicize gender violence in Nigeria with a view to combating the trend.
- Subsequent studies should examine the factors that limit journalists from reporting gender violence in Nigeria.

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