

**JOURNALISTS' AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS
PROMOTING CHILD RIGHTS ACT IN SOUTH-EAST NIGERIA**

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**DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION
FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA**

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**BEING A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION
FACULTY OF ARTS
UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THE AWARD OF MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE
IN MASS COMMUNICATION**

CERTIFICATION

I, EYIBE NNEOMA, with Registration Number PG/MA/16/82943 have satisfactorily completed the requirement for the course work and project for the Award of a Master of Arts (M.A) Degree in the Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I hereby certify that I am responsible for the work submitted in this thesis and that this is an original work which has not been submitted to this University or any other institution for the award of a degree or a diploma.

.....

Date:

Dr. I. Anorue
(Supervisor)

.....

Date:

Dr. Nwokolo
(Head of Department)

DEDICATION

To God Almighty for His faithfulness and mercies throughout my academic years

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Eyibe Nneoma Nneka O.

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Abstract

Promoting Child Right issues in a society where children are being abused and neglected is one of the social responsibility roles of the media. The Broadcast Journalist is expected to give voice to this vulnerable group in our society as unfolding events depicts their marginalized status on daily basis. It is on this premise that this study examined the awareness and attitude of Broadcast Journalists in the promotion of Child Right Act in South East Nigeria. The study sought to find out the level of awareness of Child Right Act among Broadcast Journalists; their level of knowledge of its contents; their attitude to child right issues as well as the extent to which they promote child right in Nigeria. The study employed the survey research design and the questionnaire was the instrument used to elicit behavioural responses from a sample of 300 registered Journalists in South East Nigeria covering three randomly selected states: (Anambra, Enugu and Ebonyi States). The social responsibility theory and the perception theories were used to explain the phenomenon under investigation. The findings reveal among other things that all (100%) the Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria are aware of the Child Right Act in Nigeria; their knowledge level rating stood at 75% as against 82% who said they know the content of the Child Right Act. There was a preponderance of positive attitude towards Child Right issues as the study found that Broadcast Journalists did promote Child Right Act in their reportage to a large extent. In conclusion, awareness does not pre-suppose knowledge of an issue just as level of knowledge is determined by constant exposure. It is recommended among other things that Journalists should hold state government accountable on issues of public interest as it concerns the domestication of the Child Right Act in all the states of Nigeria.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The right of a child which is sine qua non to human right is an individual's inalienable right to the basic necessities of life as provided by the law. The media which are perceived to be the voice of this seemingly "voiceless" group of the country appear not to have lived up to her responsibilities in protecting and promoting the child right in Nigeria (Ani, 2015). In 2003, Nigeria adopted the Child Rights Act to domesticate the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Although this law was passed at the Federal level, it is only effective if State Assemblies also enact it. To date, only 26 of the country's 36 States have passed the Act. Intense advocacy continues for the other 10 States to pass it (www.thenewsnigeria.com.ng 2018). This shows that this landmark legislative achievement has not yet translated into improved legal protection throughout the Federation. Nigeria has been unable to deal with several issues hindering the protection of the rights of children such as: Children living on the streets, children affected by communal conflict, drug abuse, human trafficking and the weaknesses of the juvenile justice system amongst others (Ihua-Maduenyi, 2008 and Ani, 2015).

According to Ihua-Maduenyi (2008, p.12), children conflict with the law for a variety of reasons. Poverty, social inequality, failed educational system, family problems, peer pressure, social and religious conflicts in which children are used as the foot soldiers are some of the factors that account for the number of children in conflict with the law. Unfortunately these child offenders are often treated like adults and mixed with adults in prisons. Many are convicted and jailed without making contact with a social worker or getting the opportunity to be heard. The most recent report to the African Union on the rights and welfare of the Nigerian child showed that about 6,000 children are in prison and detention centres across the country. Girls make up less than 10 per cent and they mainly come into contact with the law as a result of criminal acts committed against them such as rape, sexual exploitation and trafficking (Ihua-Maduenyi, 2008).

In a bid to actively involve the children on issues relating to them, the Federal Government of Nigeria inaugurated the Children's Parliament in 2003 to enhance children's participation. Since then, 26 States have inaugurated children's parliaments. The main challenge is to make these Parliaments truly representative of the broad categories of Nigerian children, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged (Ani, 2015).

According to Orend (2002, p.37): “Human rights are generally moral rights claimed by everyone and held against everyone, especially against those who run social institutions.” With the advent of the United Nations (UN) and the subsequent adoption of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948, the concept of human rights has turned out to be one of the most contemporary issues across the globe. The UN Charter, which was adopted in 1945, was the first international document to recognize the protection and promotion of human rights as an obligation to be carried out by individual, as well as collective states (Langley, 1999). The main reason behind the adoption of the charter was, according to Smith (2007) to forestall the reoccurrence of the horrible events caused by two devastating world wars which were caused by massive violations of human rights and unbridled breach of territorial integrity. The child by extension is also a human and deserves all the necessary protection which the law provides.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child defines a child as "a human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier" (UNCRC, 1989). The various Children and Young Persons enactments in Nigeria on the other hand define ‘child’ as a person who has not attained the age of 14 years and ‘young person’ as one who has attained the age of 14 years but has not attained the age of 17 years (Ihuama-Maduenyi, 2008). Children generally have fewer rights than adults and are classed as not able to make serious decisions, and legally must always be under the care of a responsible adult. In some cases, the age at which a person ceases to be a child varies even under different laws in the same country. However, for the purposes of this write-up, the word child covers both children and young persons.

Nigeria ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) on April 16th1991; it was signed but did not ratify the Optional Protocol on children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (Ani, 2015). Article 2 of Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA), enacted in Eastern, Western and Northern regions of Nigeria defines a “child” as (a) person under the age of fourteen, while ‘young person’ means a person who has attained the age of fourteen years and is under the age of seventeen years" (Jacomy and Stevens, 2004:9). In the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is every human being below the age of eighteen years. Similarly, The Nigerian Child Rights Act (2003), passed into law in the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), defines a child as a person who has not attained the

age of eighteen years. The general conception of a child then seems to limit it below 18 years of age (Ani, 2015).

According to UNICEF (2005:3), childhood means much more than just the space between birth and the attainment of adulthood; it refers to "the state and condition of a child's life: to the quality of those years". This definition of childhood is based on human rights and it is reflected in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Children are neither the possession of parents nor of the State, nor are they mere people in the making; they have equal status as members of the human family. In other words, children have needs similar to those of adults and thus have similar rights like any other human being. Children however rely on adults for the nurture and guidance they need to grow towards independence. Such nurture is ideally found in the children's families, but when primary caregivers cannot provide children's needs, society is expected to fill the gap.

It should also be noted that rights are equally important, as Fortin (2009) explains: "Survival rights do not only include the right to life itself but goes further to include the right to all those rights which sustain life". This includes the right to an adequate standard of living and to health care. Apparently, survival rights of children are of primary importance and they include far more than the rights necessary for only survival. However, the obligation which the UNCRC places on states to take positive steps to ensure that children enjoy a full life, with the potential to mature into healthy adults, comes under protection rights. Hence, it is arguable that if there are no protection rights the right to survival (right to life) will be inherently violated. In fact, it can be said that by placing obligations on states to protect children from all forms of abuse, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, ill-treatment, emotional abuse and neglect while they are in their parent's care, the UNCRC seeks to specifically protect children from all forms of abuse and ensures this by providing a lengthy list of protection rights (UNCRC, 1989).

In the end, however, it should be noted that although the UNCRC seeks to provide these protections for children globally, it fails to take into consideration what may constitute rights for a child in a multicultural developing society such as Nigeria as coined by (Ihua-Maduenyi, 2008) which can be applied in a society like Nigeria considering that its application cannot be universal. Journalists' age-long struggles for emancipation from restrictive and oppressive legislations have not been without unpleasant experiences and even extreme cases of martyrdom. Instances of oppressive measures against the press and journalists date as far back as the fifteenth century. Finkelstein (2012), in his *Report of the Independent Inquiry into the Media and*

Media Regulation, observes that the restrictive measures on journalists and the press date as far back as 1476 when the newly- invented printing press came to England and revolutionized communication possibilities. The press then, faced lots of prosecutions for treason and seditious libel. These repressive legislations reigned supreme till the mid-18th century when the struggle for liberation became apparent (Keane, 1991; Curran, 2010), cited in Finkelstein (2012,pp.25-26). Democratic governments realized the need for liberty and enthronement of the ‘Market place of Ideas’. Steyn (2000) buttressed this point with the assertion that ‘Freedom of speech is the life blood of democracy’.

With the concept of democracy becoming the order of the day, (perhaps courtesy of the frantic efforts of the United Nations), many countries realizing the fact that information is key to strengthening government-citizen relations and a means of enthroning a transparent and accountable government, made deliberate efforts to implement Freedom of Information (FOI) laws (acts)-the legislation that empowers or enables the citizens of a country to demand free access to certain specified documents or information-to give the press freer hand to operate within the ambits of journalistic ethics. But in Nigerian context the extent to which the Journalist is given a free hand to operate within the ambits of the law in promoting child right is still a far cry.

The Rights of the Child under the Municipal Law

The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 guarantees certain Fundamental Rights to every person including children. These rights are contained in Chapter IV of the Constitution, (Section 33-46). These include:

- (1) The Right to life (S.33)
- (2) The Right to dignity of the human person (S.34)
- (3) The Right to personal liberty (S.35)
- (4) The Right to fair-hearing (S.36)
- (5) The Right to privacy and family life (S.37)
- (6) The Right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion (S.38)
- (7) The Right to freedom of expression and the press (S.39)
- (8) The Right of freedom of movement (S.40)
- (9) The Right to freedom from discrimination (S.41)
- (10) The Right to acquire and own immovable property anywhere in Nigeria (S.42)

(11) The Right against compulsory acquisition of one's property without Compensation
(S.43)

There is provision in the Constitution for special procedure for enforcement of these Rights by the Courts through the Fundamental Rights (Enforcement Procedure).

Contents of the Child Right Act

In terms of contents, the Nigerian Child Rights Act borrowed a leaf from the UN CRC and the OAU Charter in respect of the guiding principles for the promotion and protection of the rights of children.

Under sections 1-2 (Part I), the CRA provides that the best interest of the child shall be of primary or paramount consideration in all actions to be undertaken whether by an individual, public or private body, institutions or service, court of law or administrative or legislative authority. Further, the Act provides that necessary protection and care shall be given to the child for his/her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of the child's parents, legal guardians and other bodies legally responsible for the child.

Part II (Sections 3-20) of the Act provides for the rights and responsibilities of a child in Nigeria. Accordingly, it entrenches the following fundamental rights for the child, namely, the rights to survival and development, to a name, to freedom of association and peaceful assembly, to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, to private and family life, to freedom of movement, to freedom from discrimination, to dignity of the child, to leisure, recreation and cultural activities, to health and health care services, to parental care, protection and maintenance, to free, compulsory and universal primary education, as well as encouragement of the child to attend and complete secondary education.

Responsibilities of a Child and Parent

The Child Rights Act provides that subject to age, ability and other legal limitations, every child in Nigeria shall work towards the cohesion of his/her family and community; respect his/her parents and elders at all times and assist them in case of need; serve the Federal Republic of Nigeria by placing his/her physical and intellectual abilities at service; contribute to the moral well-being of the society; preserve and strengthen social and national solidarity, the independence and integrity of Nigeria, the solidarity and achievement of Nigerian, African and World unity, peace, security, freedom, equality and Justice for all persons; and to relate with

other members of the society, with different cultural values in the spirit of tolerance, dialogue and consultation.

The duty to provide the necessary guidance, discipline, education and training for the child in one's care in order to secure the necessary assimilation, appreciation and observance of the child's responsibilities mentioned above, lies on every parent, guardian, institution, persons and authority responsible for the care, maintenance, upbringing, education, training, socialization, employment and rehabilitation of the child.

Protection of a child against discriminatory, harmful and exploitative practices

Part III (sections 21-40) of the Child Rights Act provides for the protection of the rights of the child through the prohibition of:- child marriage, child betrothal, infliction of tattoos and skin marks, exposure to use, production, trafficking, etc of drugs and psychotropic substances, use of children in any criminal activity, abduction and unlawful removal and transfer of a child from lawful custody, forced, exploitative or hazardous child labour, including outlawry of employment of children as domestic helps outside their own home or family environment, buying, selling, hiring or otherwise dealing in children for the purpose of hawking, begging for alms, prostitution, unlawful sexual intercourse, other forms of sexual abuse and exploitation prejudicial to the welfare of the child.

Additional Child Protection through Civil and Welfare Proceedings

Part IV (sections 41-49) of the Act provides for additional protection through civil and welfare proceedings.

Protection of Children in need of care and protection from physical or moral danger

Part V (Sections 50-52) of the Act empowers a child development or police officer or any other authorised person to bring a child in need of care and protection before a court for a corrective order, if he has reasonable grounds for believing that the child is an orphan or is deserted by his relatives, neglected, ill-treated or battered by his parent or guardian or custodian, or found destitute, wandering, homeless, or surviving parent undergoing imprisonment, mentally disordered, or otherwise severally handicapped; or found begging for alms, in company of a reputed/common thief or prostitute, or otherwise beyond parental control or exposed to moral or physical danger.

General Care and Supervision Orders

Part VI (Sections 53-62) of the Act Provides for the making of care and supervision orders which are designed to place children in need of care and protection in the care of a designated person, appropriate authority or state government for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the welfare of the child. The Supervision Orders may include Education Supervision Orders.

Use of Scientific Testing in Determining Paternity or Maternity of Child.

Part VII (Sections 63-67) of the Act empowers the Court to give direction or order for the use of scientific tests, including blood tests, to ascertain whether the tests show that a party to any civil proceedings is or is not the father or mother of that person.

Possession and Custody of Children

Part VIII (sections 68-81) of the Act deals with possession and custody of children, within the context of the acquisition of parental or quasi-parental authority over children.

Guardianship, Wardship, Fostering and Adoption

Part IX (Sections 82-92) of the Act provides for guardianship of children, which is also another way of acquiring parental responsibility for the child. The parents of a child shall have guardianship of the child and, in the event of the death of a parent, the surviving parent shall be the guardian of the child. Where the parents of a child are not fit to be guardians of a child jointly or severally, the court shall, on application of a member of the family of an appropriate authority, appoint a person to be a joint guardian with the parent (s) of the child.

Part X (sections 93-99) of the Act deals with wardship, which is a device by which a child is made a ward of court, notwithstanding that the child continues to remain with his parents or under the supervision of a child development officer or some other authority.

Part XI (Sections 100 -124) of the Act provides for fostering of children who are abandoned by their parents, or where an orphaned child is deserted by his relatives, or voluntarily presented by his relatives for fostering, or where neglected or ill-treated by the person having care and custody of him; or has a parent or guardian who does not or cannot exercise proper guidance over him; or is found destitute or is found wandering, has no home or settled place of abode, is on the streets or other public place, or has no visible means of subsistence.

Part XII (Sections 125-148) of the Act provides for adoption, with the establishment of adoption service nationally and clear specifications for the mechanisms and procedure for adoption, including a well articulated in built monitoring mechanism, which has led to restrictions on inter-state adoptions. The adopted children have been conferred with the full rights of children, including inheritance rights. A child may therefore be adopted if the parent(s) or guardian consents to the adoption; or the child is abandoned, neglected or persistently abused or ill-treated, and there are compelling reasons in the interest of the child why he should be adopted.

Status of Passage of Child's Rights Laws in Nigeria

- African Charter on Human & People's Rights (Ratification) Act CAP 10. Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Act 1995
- Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Acts, 2003 and as amended in 2005
- National Commission for Refugees Act (Cap 244, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990)
- Universal Basic Education (UBE) Act 2003 (Amended in 2005)
- National Agency for Food & Drug Administration and Control Act
- Criminal Codes (Federal and States)
- Sharia Penal Codes (States)
- Borstal Institutions and Remand Centres Act, Cap 38, Laws of the Federation 1990
- Child Rights Laws passed and now in force in Abia, Anambra, Bayelsa, Edo, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Imo, Jigawa, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ogun, Ondo, Oyo, Plateau and Taraba
- The Laws have been passed by the state legislators in Rivers and Osun states awaiting the assent of the governors
- Ebonyi State Law No. 10 (2001) on the Abolition of Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children
- Adamawa State Protection of Women and Children's Rights to Inheritance Law 2003

- Adamawa State Secondary Schools Standardization Law 2006
- Adamawa State Maternity Assistance to Women and Child Care Law 2001
- Malpractices Against Widows and Widowers (Prohibition) Law 2005, Anambra State
- Bauchi State Hawking by Children (Prohibition) Law 1985, Cap 58
- Bayelsa State FGM (Prohibition) Law of 2004
- Cross River State Girl-Child Marriages and Female Circumcision (Prohibition) Law 2000
- Cross Rivers State Prohibition of Domestic Violence and Maltreatment against Women Law No. 10 of 2004
- Enugu State FGM (Prohibition) Law of 2004
- Enugu State Prohibition against Infringement of Widows and Widowers Fundamental Human Rights Law
- Ebonyi State Law No. 10 of 2001 on the Abolition of Harmful Traditional Practices against Women & Children
- Edo State Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Prohibition Law 2000
- Edo State Criminal Code (Amendment) Law 2000
- Edo State Inhuman Treatment of Widows (Prohibition) Law of 2004
- Lagos State Street Trading and Illegal Markets (Prohibition) Law, Cap 183
- Lagos State Adoption Law 2003
- Lagos State Administration of Estate Law 2004

These efforts have substantially addressed the question of harmonization of national, state and local laws with the Convention. Concerns have been raised regarding certain provisions of the Sharia legal system operating in some Northern States of Nigeria which ostensibly tend to adversely infringe on the rights of women and children. However, further studies have determined that there are, in reality, no discrepancies between the provisions of the **Convention on the Right of the Child (CRC)** and the Sharia Laws with regard to the rights of children (CRC, 2009).

Specifically, all the states in Northern Nigeria have always had these provisions in their respective Laws. Examples abound in the Sharia Penal Laws of Northern States of Nigeria regarding specific provisions for the protection of children and young persons:

Section 237 of the Zamfara State Sharia Criminal Procedure Code law of 2000, No. 1 Vol. 4 provides that *“No sentence of hudud or qisas shall be imposed on a person who is under the age of taklif. Note – Hudud means offences or punishments that are fixed under the Sharia and includes offences or punishments in Sections 126 to 141 of the Sharia Penal Code; Qisa means punishments inflicted upon the offenders by way of retaliation for causing death of or injuries to person; taklif means the age of puberty. Note: Hudud offences include sexual offences like zina (fornication)”*.

Under Section 238 (1) of the same code, where a person is convicted of a ***hadd or qisas*** offence and it appears to the court by which he is convicted that he was under the age of ***taklif*** when he committed the offence, the court shall deal with him in accordance with **Section 11 of the Children and Young Persons Law (CYPL)** and **Section 95 of the Sharia Penal Code**.

Under **Section 95 of the Sharia Penal Code** of both Zamfara and Yobe States, when an offender who has completed his 7th year but not completed his 18th year of age is convicted by a court of any offence, the court may instead of passing the sentence prescribed under this code, subject the offender to confinement in a reformatory home for a period not exceeding one year.

The Sharia Penal Codes equally protect children and young persons by prescribing punishment for the crimes of causing miscarriage, injuries to unborn children, exposure of infants to danger, cruelty to children and concealment of births. So also kidnapping of children under 7 years and young persons above 7 years, abduction of children and young persons, sexual exploitation and trafficking of a girl-child and forced labour are all punishable crimes. (**Sections 207–239 of the Zamfara and Yobe States Penal Codes**).

Judicial Decision under the Sharia: In the celebrated Case of **Karimatu Yakubu v. Alh. Paiko, (Appeal No. CA/K/80s/85 – unreported, Court of Appeal, Kaduna)**, the Court of Appeal, Kaduna division, allowing the appeal in favour of the teenage appellant, reiterated that *‘her father could not compel her to marry a man contrary to her choice and right to consent. The court clearly indicated that under the Sharia Family Law the need for the consent of a girl in her marriage is both an indispensable requirement and contractual right or at least a desirable one’*. This decision demonstrates compatibility with the guiding principle of the best interest and welfare of the child (CRC, 2009).

The Mechanism for Implementation

The provisions of the *Child's Rights Act, 2003*, supersede all other legislations in the Federation relating to the rights of the child. Having been enacted at the national level, the states are expected to formally adopt the Act. At the institutional level, the NCRIC is the apex body charged with the responsibility of monitoring compliance with the Act and the **CRC**. The body comprises representatives of government ministries/agencies responsible for monitoring and implementation of the rights enunciated in the **CRA**. The NCRIC is to advise Government on programmes and projects that would enhance the implementation of the rights of the child, collect and document information on matters relating to child rights, prepare and submit periodic reports on the **CRC** and advise the Government on how best to ensure the well-being of the Nigerian child.

The **National Human Rights Commission** established under the National Human Rights Commission *Act, No. 22 of 1995* is responsible for human rights promotion, and monitoring as well as investigation of violations of the rights of children, as provided under the Constitution, the **CRA** and International Human Rights Instruments, such as the **CRC** and the African Union Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (AUCRWC). A Special Rapporteur on Child Rights at the Commission also has the responsibility to monitor compliance with the **CRC**, **AUCRWC** and the **CRA** and provide legal aid to children whose rights have been violations. Also the National Human Rights Commission, together with the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) and other Stakeholders are working with the Judiciary for the establishment of the "Family Court" through which the provisions of the CRA and the Child Right's Laws (CRLs) of the States will be enforced (CRC, 2009).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Children are the assurance of the continuity of the human society. The kind of leaders we will have tomorrow depends on the kind of children we have today. Abused, maltreated and neglected children become stunted emotionally and physically, and lack the confidence to face life. They are therefore deprived of the opportunity to develop their full potentials. Since the independence of Nigeria, rivalries between groups of the population have regularly turned into violent conflicts. Many children died, or lost their parents, or were left disabled or were internally displaced. Children have also been severely affected by the economic crises faced by the country in 1999 which has led to an increase in the number children living in poverty or

extreme poverty. Among other dangerous consequences, poverty made more children to live and/or work in the street and has increased their vulnerability to trafficking. Some diseases have reached tragic dimensions and harmful traditional practices, such as forced marriage, female genital mutilation, widowhood practices and boy preference continue to have negative effects on the life and welfare of the girl-child. But discrimination also affects other groups of children, such as orphans, street children, disabled children or children born out of wedlock. A large number of children also continue to be subjected to domestic violence or corporal punishment at school or in detention facilities. Thus, millions of Nigerian children face special problems of disadvantage, discrimination, abuse and exploitation, sometimes in appalling circumstances. These problems not only compound the risks of survival and create formidable obstacles for the development of children, but are major challenges in their own right; requiring special protective measures if they are to be addressed effectively.

The media are believed to have a role to play in promoting child right in Nigeria. The media as the watchdog of the society and the voice of the voiceless have an obligation to give the Nigerian child a voice in public discourse, but the extent to which this has been done remains fluid. It is on this basis that this study south to examine Journalist awareness and attitude towards promoting child right act in South East Nigeria.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study aims at establishing the level of awareness and attitude shown by broadcast Journalists in promoting child right in south east Nigeria. In more specific terms, this study aims to:

1. Find out the level of awareness of Child Right Act among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria.
2. Determine how well Broadcast Journalists in South East are knowledgeable about the content of the Child Right Act in Nigeria.
3. Find out the attitude of Broadcast Journalists towards the Child Right Act in South East Nigeria.
4. Investigate the extent to which Broadcast Journalists in South East promote Child Right in Nigeria.

1.4 Research Questions

The study is guided by the following research questions namely:

1. What is the level of awareness of Child Right Act among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria?
2. How well are Broadcast Journalists in South East knowledgeable about the content of Child Right Act in Nigeria?
3. What is the attitude of Broadcast Journalists in South East towards the Child Right Issues in Nigeria?
4. To what extent do Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria promote Child Right?

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study will focus on the Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria. This will comprise of both government-owned media and Private-owned media. To specifically situate the respondents to the phenomenon under investigation, the study will focus on those broadcast journalists that have worked in the broadcast media for about 15 years which guarantees that they have gained wealth of knowledge on the Child Right Act promulgated in 2003 by the federal government of Nigeria. On the geographical scope of the study, broadcast journalists from the five south eastern states in Nigeria (i.e. Anambra, Enugu, Ebonyi, Abia and Imo States) out of which three will be randomly selected will be studied.

1.6 Significance of the Study

Findings from this study will be significant in revealing the potency of the Child Right Act and the need for its domestication in all the states in Nigeria. The findings of this study will also be significant in equipping media practitioners with knowledge of the fundamental principles of the Child Right Act so as to encourage synergy between Journalists and Lawyers to canvass for the promotion of the Child Right Act having established the basis for its underlying fundamental principles.

Professionally, this study will serve as an eye-opener to all stakeholders in the campaign for the promotion of Child Right across the globe and particularly in Africa and Nigeria at large (especially in south east, Nigeria) to properly harness the various opportunities that abound in the domestication of the right across the country.

Theoretically, the findings from this study will build on existing literature on the social responsibility theory as well as provide a model for the understanding of the tenets of the social responsibility theory in explaining how the broadcast media can play its advocacy role on legal issues as it concerns the seemingly voiceless group in the country.

Academically, this study will also add to literature on the growing concern among scholars as regards issues of protecting and promoting the right of children and to underscore the varying efforts put in place at harnessing the domestication of the Child Right Act in all the states in Nigeria.

Overall, the significance of the study will be fully appreciated at the end of the study when the anticipated findings would have emerged based on the specific objectives stated in the study.

1.7 Definition of Terms

For the purpose of conceptual clarification in this study, the following terms will be operationalized:-

- **Child:** Any male or female that is not up to the age of eighteen years.
- **Right:** A legal or moral entitlement accruing to an individual as contained in the constitution of the country.
- **Act:** A formal or official record of a legislative work on a given issue of concern.
- **Awareness:** The state or level of consciousness of the existence of something within one's area of operation.
- **Attitude:** A disposition or state of mind which can be favourable or unfavourable but is consistent over a long period of time.
- **Broadcast Journalists:** Journalists that work in either radio or television station in South East Nigeria
- **Journalist:** A trained reporter of news and other communication contents who works in a media station.
- **Knowledge:** It is a state of gaining information or becoming vast on the content of a given document which is well understood to the extent of putting such information into productive use in order to achieve a given result as anticipated.

- **Child Right Act:** Is a law that seeks to protect the inalienable right of a child in a country irrespective of tribe, religion or economic status. These rights are also enshrined in the constitution of the country.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Focus of review

This chapter deals with the conceptual review, the empirical review and the theoretical review under the following broad sections: conceptual review of related literature (i.e. The Concept of a Child in the Nigerian Context and The Concept of Child Right in Nigeria); review of related empirical studies on: The Role of the Media; The Role of the Media in Promoting Human Right Education; New Media and Child Rights Promotion in Nigeria and The Children; Young Persons Act (CYPA) and Assessment of the Rights of the Child in Nigeria. There is also a section on Theoretical review which examines related theories (i.e. The social responsibility theory and the perception theories) to explain the key variables in the study. Lastly, this chapter contains the Summary of Literature Review.

2.1 Conceptual Review of Related Literature

2.1.1 The Concept of a Child in Nigerian Context

The Child Right's Act (2003) passed into law in the Federal Capital Territory (Abuja), defines a child as a person who has not attained the age of eighteen years. However, according to Act 2 of Children and Young Persons Act, enacted in Eastern, Western and Northern regions (hereafter referred to as CYPA), a 'child' means a person under the age of fourteen years, while 'young person' means a person who has attained the age of fourteen years and is under the age of seventeen years. Furthermore, the Immigration Act stipulates that any person below 16 years is a minor, whereas the Matrimonial Causes Act puts the age of maturity at 21 to 25. The latter act becomes irrelevant in practice, since the individual states declare their own age for marriage (Ihua-Maduenyi, 2008).

Moreover, there is a severe lack of financial resources allocated to the protection and promotion of child's rights. Consequently, mechanisms for protection and promotion of children remain "weak, uncoordinated and not in line with Nigeria's obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter"(Oyero, O. 2010). More than 72 children out of every 1000 born alive die before their first birthday," while the on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Although statistics differ somehow depending on the source: "Nigeria has one of the

world's worst rates of maternal and infant mortality" (Nwankwo, 2011). According to the United Nations population Fund (UNFPA), UNPD places the infant mortality rate on 110/100015.

2.1.2 The Concept of Child Right in Nigeria

According to the Child Development Department of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria, (1995: 5), the basic principles of Children's rights state that:

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

National and international efforts are underway across all continents to stop systematic abuse of the rights of children. Even so, shockingly high levels of child rights violations continue. In Nigeria alone, hundreds of millions of children live with hunger, homelessness and illiteracy, and suffer sexual violence, physical abuse, forced labour and other varied and complex risks. The number of children at risk today in these countries is staggering – nearly 3 million children (over half the child population) are living in conditions where their basic rights are violated (Ihua-Maduenyi, 2008).

Internews Europe believes that high quality media content and public debate that is inclusive of child voices, expert advocates, and that explains policy issues, can contribute to wider efforts to improve the environment for protecting and promoting the rights of children (Ihua-Maduenyi, 2008).

He further asserted that the political crisis that the country faced in 1999 and the continuation of “communal conflicts” have severely affected the Nigerian population, including children. Many of them died, lost their parents, were left disabled or were internally displaced because of these clashes. Children were also severely affected by the economic crises faced by the country in 1999, which has led to an increase in the number of children living in poverty or extreme poverty. Among other dangerous consequences, poverty made more children to live and work in the street and has increased their vulnerability to trafficking (Ihua-Maduenyi, 2008).

2.2. Review of Empirical Studies

2.2.1 The Role of the Media in Promoting Child Right

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

Okigbo (1991) notes that the print media can contribute to development by disseminating truth and useful information, correlating the parts of society and sensitizing (or conscientizing) the people to the need for planned development and social change. Other important functions of the print media in development process are persuasion, motivation, providing 'learning materials and appropriate development information for educated members of the society. Media also shape public opinion and influence public policy. Graves (2007), citing Jaime Abello Banfi, notes that media are used to give voice to marginalized groups, such as women and ethnic and religious minorities, as well as to promote their rights. In Burundi, for example, the association Bon Sem produces a weekly radio show and publishes a newsletter designed to encourage discussion about

how civil society can work for the political and economic inclusion of the marginalized Twa communities. Similarly, according to Panos London's 2007 report *At the Heart of Change*, information and the media that deliver it are powerful agents of change that can help reduce poverty and the debilitating effects of disease in the developing world. Sustainable development demands that people participate in the debates and decisions that affect their lives. They need to be able to receive information, and also to make their voices heard. The social impact of media includes improving the quality of education, informing the public about health threats and safe practices to avoid them, serving local communities by bringing attention to their needs, and in times of disaster, providing information and sources of assistance to people displaced from their homes (Graves, 2007).

In pursuance of the child rights agenda, series of international, regional and national conferences have been held, leading to declarations, resolutions and charters on the rights of the child. The first attempt to bring issues affecting children to the fore was the 1924 Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child. This was followed by the 1959 Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the proclamation of 1979 as the International Year of the Child by the United Nations.

The 1979 proclamation was meant to increase levels of knowledge concerning children's rights, to present examples where the position of children had been improved, and fix particular attention on the tragic condition of children in developing countries, primarily levels of infant and child mortality in Africa. But the most notable event about children was the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which was adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by UN General Assembly resolution 44/25 of November 20, 1989. It became effective on September 2, 1990. About 191 countries have since ratified it (UNICEF, 2002). The Convention has produced a profound change with substantive effects on the world's attitude towards children.

Nigeria ratified the Convention on April 19, 1991 and thus came under obligation to fulfill the requirements and dictates of the convention in respect of the child. Following the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child were other conferences such as the Asia Summit on Child Rights and the Media (1996), the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (1996), the First All African Summit (1997), the Second World Summit on Television for Children (1998), the Oslo Challenge (1999), the West African Regional Summit on Media for Children (2000) etc. Most

of these conferences stressed the role of the media in the realisation of the goals set in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Article 17 of the Convention on the rights of the child specifies the role the media should play in the promotion and protection of children's rights (UNICEF 2002:65-66). The Article states that: States Parties shall recognize the important function performed by the mass media and shall ensure that the child has access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health. To this end, States Parties shall:

- (a) Encourage the mass media to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child and in accordance with the spirit of article 29;
- (b) Encourage international cooperation in the production, exchange and dissemination of such information and material from a diversity of cultural, national and international sources;
- (c) Encourage the production and dissemination of children's books;
- (d) Encourage the mass media to have particular regard to the linguistic needs of the child who belongs to a minority group or who is indigenous;
- (e) Encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being, bearing in mind the provisions of articles 13 and 18 (UNICEF . 2002:65-66).

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (1996) believes that the media-both written and audio visual-are highly important in efforts to make reality the principles and standards of the Convention. The media can play a pivotal role in monitoring the actual implementation of the rights of the child.

The media are powerful because they penetrate every segment of modern -day society and effectively influence how people view themselves, their neighbours, their communities and their world. Media representations are the primary source of information on social problems for many people (Hutson and Liddiard, 1994). Maley (2000: 37) for instance notes that: "In social and cultural matters, the various media provide the main platforms of debate, and their choices of subjects, participants and opinions shape the agenda and much of its content." The media play a significant role in forming and influencing people's attitudes and behaviour (Brawley, 1995).

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

In addition to news stories, feature articles and investigative journalism, sporadic mass media education and prevention campaigns could be launched. These campaigns will broaden community's knowledge of child abuse and neglect, influence people's attitudes towards children and young people and change behaviours that contribute to, or precipitate the problem of child abuse and neglect in our communities. Though it has been argued that complex attitudinal or behavioural change requires more direct forms of citizen contact and intervention, the media at least are effective in building citizen awareness of an issue (Saunders and Goddard, 2002; Reger, Wootan and Booth Butterfield, 2000; Freimuth, Cole and Kirby 2001).

Besides, mass media campaigns and coverage of the rights of children perform a significant role in placing the relevant issues on the public and political agenda. Lindsey (1994:163) also asserts that: "media has a central role in mediating information and forming public opinion. The media casts an eye on events that few of us directly experience and renders remote happenings observable and meaningful". Parajuli (2004) also notes that children are the future of a country and must be provided with education, socialized, motivated and equipped with all the basic necessities for their personality development. He adds that media can bring forth children's issues by allowing children who have been working (in the worst form such) as domestic servants, on the streets, in factories and mines / quarries as well as those rehabilitated from any organization to participate in their media programme. In this connection, rights of the children like education, health, communication, participation, physical and moral support are some of the major components for their well-being. So, the media have to raise the awareness of children's situation to the concerned NGOs or government. In other words, mass media education and child rights campaigns present one means of breaking cycles of suppression and denial.

2.2.2 The Role of the Media in Promoting Human Rights Education

The role of mass communication channels in promoting human rights education is well recognized and documented in the literature. Among others, Bhandari (2005) and Johnson (2003) argue for substantial media mobilization in contributing to the human rights agenda, specifically the promotion of children's rights. International development institutions also emphasize the critical importance of the mass media in enhancing supportive a public attitude to human rights issues.

In 1978, UNESCO came up with a Declaration on the fundamental contribution of the mass media to the promotion of human rights and other aspects of international peace and understanding. Article IV states that media institutions are critical in educating young people towards promoting the spirit of peace, justice, freedom, mutual respect as well as facilitating the realization of human rights of all peoples and nations (UNESCO 1978). Within contemporary international development, the framework for holistically addressing children's needs and concerns is the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Its 54 Articles embody the fundamental human rights for children, including the principles of inclusion, equality and participation all of children. Article 17 establishes the importance of media engagement in promoting children's rights and recommends access to information material from a diversity of national and international sources (UNCRC,1989).

To address the peculiarities of child development in Africa, the African Child Rights Charter provides the normative framework and minimum standards for child rights in Africa. It also supports the need for effective mass media mobilization in promoting the rights of the African child (Nwankwo, 2011). From the foregoing, there is a general recognition of the critical role of mass communication in improving human rights consciousness within the general population, and especially for promoting the child rights agenda. Scholars such as (Asemah, Edegoh, and Ogwo, 2012; Nwankwo, 2011; Parajuli, 2004 and Saunders and Goddard, 2002) argue that the various new media platforms offer considerable opportunities for achieving three main elements of child rights agenda: child participation, service provision and protection of young people. Statistics on the scope of new media use in Nigeria varies and is constantly changing.

Ndukwe (2005) estimates that in 2000, Nigeria had 450,000 connected fixed lines, no connected digital mobile lines, one national carrier and one licensed mobile line operator. Internet World Statistics also estimates that Nigeria had 200,000 fixed line connections by

December 2004 but the figure grew to 1.5 million in 2007. According to Fayoyin (2011), the uprising of the new media as against that of the traditional media has announced new opportunities for expanding media mobilization for child development interventions in the country. New media tools are essential in promoting access to, and utilization of key health and social services needed for the fulfillment of child's right. The new media also comes with considerable challenges especially related to some of their dysfunctional effects which need further research and analysis. The study proposes a symbiotic relationship between the 'new' and the 'old' media in dealing with consolidated forms of child rights violations in order to achieve cultural, systemic and policy changes needed for maximum realization of child's right. (Fayoyin, 2011)

2.2.3 Press Freedom, Media Right and Child Right: Promotion

The freedom of the press is an important concept in considering the role of the media in all aspects of the society. It is a necessary condition for the media to be effective in carrying out their functions. The right to press freedom warrants the media the right to determine the form which their programmes will assume, as well as the appropriate form of reporting (Jacobsen, 2008). Article 19 guarantees press freedom, but, authors such as Becker and Vlad (2009:65) argue that the concept of press freedom is controversial because it is unclear to ascertain the meaning of press freedom in terms of "freedom from what and freedom for whom?"

The concept of press freedom is not explicitly defined (Merrill 2009:10; Fleshman, 2005). For Merrill, going by the First Amendment to the U.S constitution, which states that "[congress] will make no laws to a bridge freedom", no clear instances were given of what constitute the press, or what the press is not. He notes that the American Model" of press freedom which could be seen as freedom from government interference, has become the dominant model for the globe. Whitten-Wood (2009) gives a comprehensive checklist of what constitutes "free media" which has been subsumed into four major indicators: the legal, political, economic and professional environments. Thus a free press is a necessary condition for the exercise of human rights. Similarly, media organizations need to be independent for them to carry out their roles in society (IFJ, 1999; Keel and Wyss, 2008).

Is the press free in reality? The press, apart from being autonomous and independent of government (in most democratic countries) is often not free from interference by corporate powers, advertisers, civil press groups, publishers and editors, and these are seldom taken into

account (Apodaca,2007:10). For instance, Burton (2005:54) while commenting on the sources of income for media outfits, notes that the BBC could be said to be independent of market forces only in principle, but not in reality because it derives its income from license fees paid by television owners. Again, some corporations have known to sponsor media programmes. This development, according to Burton, causes media interest to be attached to commercial interests. One of the consequences is the displacement of the public interest by profit motives, and, the homogeneity of perspective (Proffitt, 2007). Besides, there might be the inability of the media to objectively and fearlessly carry out their role without being influenced. How freely would any media outfit carry out an investigative report on any of its customers in terms of advertising patronage, when there are indications that they are involved in rights abuses or other corrupt practices which the media need to uncover?

Although the media could be seen to be titled to the right to freedom of expression, in reality, this right is not totally free. Becker and Vlad (2009) have noted some factors which pose as threats to press freedom including censorship and political instability. In the case of censorship by government, authoritarian regimes characteristically tighten their control in monitoring media contents. Contents which question their policies are often removed. Media outfits may either be owned or subsidized by the government whereby the government reads or views the contents before they are published. In some cases, they are involved in the appointment of the editorial board of media organisations. For instance, in China, the communist party owns the media which serve as its mouthpiece. Only positive stories are free to be published (Hong, 2008). As a result of the tight control of the media, some journalists lost their jobs (Branigan, 2011). In self-censorship, media outfits on their own decide to publish or their news stories depending on how the contents might impact on their survival as organisations.

Political instability and economic consideration can limit the exercise of press freedom. The concentration of media into groups as a result of the influence of oligarchs whose economic and political interests displace those of the public and the society at large also impinges on press freedom. The application of the legal system can deter the media from exercising their freedom fearlessly. Unlawful practices meant to be uncovered through investigative journalism could be hindered by privacy laws; however, these should not be used to displace important developments which are beneficial to the public interest (Human Rights Education, no date). It is still problematic to determine what the public interest is, or to determine exactly what the

public wants. Laws on libel and defamation which have legal consequences may also discourage them from doing so. Any constraint on press freedom is a constraint on human rights, except in cases where such freedom might violate human rights. According to Cohen-Almagor, the values of not harming others and respecting others should play a prominent part in the consideration of journalists” (2001: xvii).

This could be achieved by the media if due consideration is given to media ethics. Ethics deals with the act of differentiating between right and wrong. The qualification of an act as ethical is dependent on the criteria or framework on which it is justified or what values are considered important (Waisbord, 2001), and the media, in their nature are moral agents that can potentially be have ethically or unethically (Oosthuizen, 2002:5). It then becomes imperative that they give attention to their method of information gathering and dissemination to avoid unintentional violation of human rights. Waisbord (2001:15) argues that information garnered through dubious means such as deception, false identities and other unethical methods are counterproductive to public trust in the media. Corrupt practices such as bribery are also unethical journalistic values. These unethical practices are capable of discrediting information on human rights stories, or violations reported by the media. It is important to note that some of the worst forms of human rights violations are uncovered when investigative journalists work under false or hidden identities because such violations would almost be impossible to uncover should journalists reveal their real identities. For example, in the case of the BBC Panorama investigative report on child labour in Ghana and Ivory Coast, the investigative reporter was able to uncover what happens in the cocoa plantations by posing as a cocoa trader. Therefore, the question of false identities might not be automatically said to undermine public trust in the media.

The notion of the social responsibility of the media is derived from the social responsibility theory of the press which arose as a result of the ability of the media to influence the belief, ideas and behaviour of people on very important issues. It came about as a result of the view that since the press (newspapers) was influential, it had social responsibilities. Hence, every media ought to deliver accurate and unbiased news to meet the divergent needs of the heterogeneous public, without confining their role to being the “mouthpiece of those with special interests or political agendas”. The impact of the media in society is tremendous (Herdís, 2003; Marsh and Melville cited in Wolferman, 2010). The social responsibility of the media is fostered when the media engage in what is referred to as, “committed journalism”, in which

priority is placed on values such as „democracy, free choice, openness, morality, and serving the common good“, thereby informing the public„ about political, social, economic, and cultural affairs“. „Committed journalism“ would best manifest when the media undertake to be the public watchdog (Lusgarten and Debrix, 2005:365).

In terms of human rights promotion or protection, the concepts of media social responsibility, “committed journalism” or “watchdog journalism” are perhaps irrelevant fragmentations of the role expected of the media as long as the media make sincere efforts in clinging to their professional codes of ethics. Nevertheless, all are useful to the media in forestalling human rights abuses, as well as uncovering the abuses, especially through investigative journalism. It is the role of investigative journalists to search and uncover the truth, the exposure of the truth is in harmony with the public interest, which, when effectively carried out may be productive in bringing about change (Hugode Burgh, 2000). The roles performed by the media in the society (Wasserman, 2009) are instrumental to the promotion of human rights. The media provide most of the information about human rights, and in the event of failure of the media to do so fairly, accurately, or consistently, public perceptions will be unfair, inaccurate and inconsistent (Heinze and Freedman, 2010: 492).

Agenda-setting theory sees the media as instruments used to influence public opinion by setting the agenda in public discourse. The theory states that when issues are covered by the media as often as possible, the public would take them to be important (Wanta 1997, cited in Wallinger, 2010).

The theory was derived from the work of Walter Lippman in 1922, who argued that “the public responds not to actual events in the environment but to the pictures in our heads” (Little John and Foss, 2008:293), that the news media construct our view of the world” (Coleman et al., 2009:147). Later, McCombs and Shaw (1972) conducted a study which gave validity to the idea which Lippman described. They discovered that various campaign themes which were emphasized by the media had a relationship with how undecided voters judge how important the campaign themes were. Media personnel then shape political reality (Brown and Deegan, 1998:25). Agenda-setting is a theory about the transfer of salience from them as media’s pictures of the world to those in our heads “such that whatever is given prominence in the media’s picture also becomes prominent in the audience’s picture (McCombs and Ghanem, 2006:67). Public opinion is “shaped and influenced” as the media choose and sift certain elements of news, which makes the audience of the media think along a certain pattern. Hence

the media's choice of topics and how the topics are presented are elements of the theory (Fourie, 2001). The news gatekeepers such as reporters, writers and editors (Sanchez, 2002) are responsible for determining what counts as news (Dainton and Zelly, 2011). The importance of news items in a newspaper could be known by the particular position they occupy, where the important ones are used as headlines, written in bold characters and placed on the frontpage of the paper. For the media, important stories are reported first, and in detail before others, thus, stories judged (by editors or news directors) to be of somewhat lesser importance or news worthiness occupy the backpages, or the last part of the" (DeFleur, 2010:159). As a theory of mass communication, it has stood the test of time, and proved to be, "deep and wide" (Coleman et al, 2009, p.147) because many studies have confirmed its validity (Shehata, 2010; Uscinki, 2009).

The two major assumptions of agenda-setting theory are: The news media do not mirror reality, but instead filter and shape it.

Emphasis by the media, overtime and on relatively small number of issues, leads the public into perceiving these issues as more important than other issues (Weaver, 1984. Cited in Wanta, 1997:2). Although the media are said to set the agenda for the public, it is believed that the reverse could be the case, in the sense that sometimes the public's agenda occasionally influences the media's issue agenda", (Uscinki, 2009:797). Uscinki argues that as a result of this, two, competing frameworks "compete among researchers: the agenda-setting framework, "in which the news agenda influence the public agenda" and, "the audience driven framework, in which the audience agenda influences the news media,"(p.2).

In reporting news stories, journalists will consider the relevance of the news story and how appealing the news is to the audience who often prefer, "exciting spectacular events [like] violence, conflict, scandal or disaster" (Graber, 1980, cited in Uscinki, 2009). If news stories are reported based on the irrelevance to the audience, it then means that the audience will exert influence on the media agenda. Uscinki argues that the interest of the public to issues such as "environmental cleanups" will make reporters to report environment-oriented stories. For Straubhaar et al (2010), media agenda could also be influenced by the actions of prominent people such as the president of a country, whose comment on national agenda could be picked by the media and used as news stories or some interest groups capable offsetting the agenda through their stand on an issue. Little John and Foss (2008:295) concur and argue that when the

media have relationships with the elite, the influence of the elite will affect the media agenda. Besides, the “dormant ideology often reflects in the public agenda.

Even though the news media would tend to report stories based on the preferences of the audience, the audience might develop such preferences based on the information they might have got from the media. In the case of the “environmental cleanups” cited by Uscinki, one could ask: what triggered the concern from the audience, how and where did the audience get the knowledge about the environment? Therefore, although the public could be said to set the agenda for the media in some cases (on a minimal level), it all rests on the media. In the case of the audience preferring “stimulating, entertaining and compelling content” (Uscinki, 2009:798), the media still decide which news stories are deemed stimulating. It shows that the public “think about what they are told”, rather than “think what they are told” (Mcquail, 2010, p.512). If it can be argued that the media can set the public agenda by reporting one news story in place of another, then, the media can take up the human rights agenda by publishing human rights programmes. In the words of Apodaca, “The media can disseminate human rights information, mobilize human rights NGOs, strengthen popular participation in civil society, promote tolerance, and shine a light on government activity” (2007:151).

The media and human rights NGOs are helpful to each other in the fight against human rights violations. These NGOs serve as “monitors” and “sources of information” for human rights stories. The NGOs can use the global media to highlight abuses, which in turn will “shame” abusers to put an end to their attitude (Cmiel, 2004, cited in Apodaca, 2007), while information released by them could be used by the media as news stories (ICHRP, 2002). In Nigeria, an NGO-Prisoners Rehabilitation and Welfare Action (PRAWA), with the help of a donor organization, produced a film titled: “The rights of Prisoners.” The film was aimed at increasing awareness on the condition of Nigerian prisons and the plights of inmates” (Okafor, 2006, p.132).

Although there has been the assertion that “every citizen can be a reporter”, especially in terms of having access to the modem (Hargreaves, 2005, p.132), the journalists intended here are the professionals” with commitment to the essential shared values of the practice of journalism...” (Elliot, 2009, p.28). Thus, “journalism requires active learning, critical and creative thinking”, in which they are equipped to” gather information of significance to the task at hand, accessing its credibility and validity” (Burns, 2002:33). There is a common belief that “human rights and democracy are mutually supportive or related to each other by definition”

(Freeman, 2002, p.71). Freedom of expression, and press freedom in particular is an important factor in democracy because of the media's ability to provide information which serve as link between "mass publics", elites and government (Whitten-Woodring, 2009, p.595).

Manzella and Leon (2010, p.71) argue that the press proved its capacity to be "a force for change" in Venezuela, when a group of journalists uncovered the hidden scandals of President Carlos Andres Pérez, and this eventually led to his ouster. Recently, the authoritarian government in Egypt was dismantled by protesters as a result of the use of the social media. The protesters were connected with each other and the outside world through the use of gmail and twitter (Himelfarb, 2011), hence the social networks served as "socio-political tool" in the pursuit of democracy (Menon, 2011). The media can "control the gateway to the electoral market". They can also elevate the credibility and authority of new politicians, thus enhancing their acceptability by voters (Ellinas 2010, p.3). It is therefore evident that the media are useful in ensuring that there is a feasible mechanism for democracy to thrive. The media foster the concept of "collective rights" when minority social groups are given the chance to partake in public discussion (Erni, 2009). This in turn provides a safe environment for the protection and promotion of human rights. However, the role of the media in nurturing democracy can be hampered by "growing commercial constraints prompted by media deregulation and privatization" (Chambers, 2000, p.92).

The philosophy behind the Child Right Act is well founded and directed towards the achievement of the continuity of the human race in an atmosphere of peace, harmony development and happiness. The various laws and instruments on the rights of the child discussed so far emphasize summarily that "in all actions concerning the child undertaken by any person or authority the best interests of the child shall be the primary consideration" (Act. 4:1, African Charter)".

However, despite copious provisions in our municipal laws and international instruments on the rights of the child, there appears to be a gap between law and practice resulting in gross inability of the child to realize these rights at present. Child labour and child abuses are still rampant with the presence of street children and children beggars. Corruption in Government has robbed children of the finance necessary for the implementation of the rights of the child the health care delivery system. The scourge of the HIV/AIDS in the country is a threat to the right to life and Government has not addressed the issue. Sexual harassment and abandonment of children are still rampant exposing them to physical and moral insecurity (Tajudeen, 2015).

The right to education appears to be replaced by exploitative child labour in some parts of the country. Many parents are still abandoning their responsibilities towards their children despite these laws. Tajudeen (2015) further state that there is need for more political will and economic power on the part of the government to implement these laws in the interest of the Nigerian child. Finally, it is recommended that all stake holders must be properly educated and enlightened on these rights. Parents, children, families, and the Governments should be alert to their responsibilities under these laws and pay greater attention to their implementation.

2.2.4 Children and Drug Abuse

According to Carroll (1989), drug is any substance which upon entering the body can change either the function or structure of the organism. On the other hand, drug abuse is a situation when drug is taken more than it is prescribed. It could be seen as the use of illicit drugs, or the abuse of prescription or over-the-counter drugs. Carroll (1989) further defined drug abuse as the deliberate use of chemical substances for reasons other than intended medical purposes and which results in physical, mental emotional or social impairment of the user. The abuse of legal drugs can happen when people use the drugs in a manner other than directed by the manufacturer or purpose that are not legitimate.

So many reasons have been advanced for drug use and abuse as a phenomenon with a complex etiology. For instance, if young men and women who are potential drug addicts continue to reside in the social environment in which past drug use occurred, suggests that the use of such drug may continue. This is because most cases of drug use and abuse emanates from any array of psych-social reasons. Ahire (1990) noted that personality disorders and socio-economic environment are the major determinants of the victim's involvement in drug abuse. Other reasons adduced for drug use and abuse are:- to reduce stress, build self-esteem, drug availability, peer pressure and the desire to be sociable. As a matter of fact, vulnerability may be inherited in the form of heightened susceptibility to a certain type of drug.

The abuse of various mood-altering substances has been reported to be prevalent among Nigerian youths (Lambo 1960). Moronkola (2003), also pointed out that some substances alter the mind, changed the user's feeling, perception and behavior when they are used because they exert action on the brain. Global studies on drug use and abuse revealed that early initiation of drug use is one of the best predictors of future drug abuse and dependence, for instance youths

whose drug use started before the age of 14 are more vulnerable to drug problems later in life than those who started using drugs at the age of 21 and above.

According to Osayomi (1999) from ancient times, the use of drugs has always been an inseparable part of occultism and the youth in tertiary institutions are deeply involved in this practice. There are two aspects of danger associated with drugs; the risk of addiction and adverse health and behavioural consequences. Drugs are basically two groups i.e. legally approved and acceptable drugs and illegal or legally disapproved drugs. Legally approved and acceptable drugs are drugs which have through the ages becomes a part of the society and had remained, Ballas (2006). However, due to large quantities of these drugs being taken in and out of the country, the government imposes import duties on them. There are two main types namely: Tobacco and Alcohol. Tobacco is used almost universally by people throughout the world. Tobacco is rewarding for their manufacturing concerns and to the government because it brings in huge financial benefits.

However, because of the danger associated with cigarette smoking, such as cancer of the lung, coronary heart diseases which leads to premature death, the Federal Government made it compulsory that every advertisement on any branch of cigarette must carry warning e.g. “cigarette is dangerous to health and smokers are liable to die young”. Therefore, general avoidance of cigarettes smoking would greatly reduce the number of premature death. Obot (1992) reported that the rates of smoking among the teenagers especially students are high and seem to be increasing. He further pointed out that cigarette smoking and alcohol are responsible for more death and sickness than illicit drug use.

Alcohol is a substance that man has learned to ingest in order to get special bodily sensation many centuries ago and is deeply embedded in diverse cultures of the world. It is used in almost all parts of the world yet many people are not even aware that it is a drug. According to Odejide (1989) many Nigerians do not regard alcohol as a very potent drug due to the fact that it is readily available and its use is socially accepted by the society. In some societies other than Nigeria today, drinking behavior is considered important for the whole social order and so drinking is defined and limited in accordance with fundamental motifs of the culture. In Nigeria alcohol has contributed immensely to various road accidents and crimes.

Odejide (1989) also stated that many years ago, alcohol used to be the preserve of adult males, but recent studies show that alcohol is now abused by the young ones and also the females. Alcohol is in the composition of many beverages and varies greatly in their nature and

strength. Some have from .3-20% while some contain up to 50% alcohol. When this alcohol is taken in excess, the following effects could be experienced in the body:

1. it deadens the nervous system
2. it increase the heart beat,
3. it causes the blood vessels to dilate
4. it causes bad digestion notably of vitamin B especially when taken on empty stomach
5. it interferes with the power of judgment and poisons the higher brain and nerve centre etc.

Apart from alcohol and tobacco, other substances with several appellations which are sources of great concern to the government are the narcotics. These are the hard drugs and are the most dangerous. They include codeine, heroin etc. As a matter of fact, these two are common ones among groups available in Nigeria. Others are morphine and paregoric methadone. These drugs reduce physical and psychological sensitivity, resulting in a loss of contact with reality, sense of euphoria, reduces fear, tension and anxiety. It also reduces physical activities of the user and causes drowsiness, constipation, nausea and vomiting in some individuals. High doses sometimes cause unconsciousness, coma or death Regier et al (1990). The sedatives are nicotine, tranquilizer barbiturates etc. Sedatives reduce tension, anxiety and inhibitions resulting in a feeling of relaxation and drowsiness. Over dose of the drugs produces blurred speech, staggering, sluggishness, reaction, erratic emotionality and untimely sleep. The stimulants include well known cocaine, caffeine or codeine, paracetamol etc. These categories of drugs when they are not medically used as anesthetic, are capable of elevating mood, suppresses hunger, decrease fatigue, causes sensation and sensory hallucination. Obot (1992) reported that many users of these substances are professionals in their 20's and 30's while others are nouveau riche businessmen or the adolescent.

The hallucinogen intoxicant is by far the most common hard drugs amongst the youths. The marijuana with various generic names has been reported as the most accessible drug amongst students. According to Odejide (1989), students refer to it as pep or superman pills. Popularly known as Indian hemp, Igbo, Ganja, the plant is cultivated in most villages due to the topography of the soil. Simmons and Paides (1977) reported that students who are involved in drug abuse are likely to suffer the consequences stated above and may have very low performance in his or her academic activities. In the same vain, Maher, et al (1966) also traced the high rate of crime in the society to drug abuse by the youth. The findings of NDLEA yearly

data on drug abuse (1977, 1991, 1992, 1996), revealed tremendous increase in the abuse of cannabis by the youths. Its immediate effects have an initial stimulation which fades into relaxation accompanied by euphoria, and increase ability to communicate. There is also drowsiness, hunger associated with marijuana. There is also blood-shot eyes, occasional nausea and vomiting, clumsiness, decrease muscular co-ordination, dizziness etc. Sometimes more than one drug is used at a time, such as both cocaine and marijuana. This combination of drugs clearly suggests that drug use by such individual is well advanced and may be associated with psychological problems.

At the level of an individual youth, sustained substance abuse has many social and health problems. It has been linked to various forms of crime, violence, and traffic accidents. Empirical evidence has also pointed out to a strong association between substance abuse by youth and a number of accidental injuries including traffic, drowning, poisoning, burns and falls, as well as premeditated injuries such as interpersonal violence, suicides, child abuse and sexual violence. Seedat et al, (2009) has demonstrated the link between drug misuse and homicide, abuse of children and partners, as well as rape and other violent acts. Lack of resources to sustain drug addiction has also been singled out as a major cause of many serious crimes, such as murder and robbery. A decade ago, Parry et al, 2004 and Parry et al, 2005 noted that violence was strongly related to use of illicit drugs (45%) and 40% cannabis.

Other studies have shown that substance abuse is associated with risky sexual behaviour. Pluddemann et al., (2010) found that school going youth who used methamphetamine were characterized by delinquent behaviour and engaged in sexual practices more frequently than those who had not used this substance. In a very recent study, Magidson, et al (2016) tests the association between drug use and sexual activity, violence for both males and females in peri-urban areas. In a sample of 822, 16-18 year olds, and using logistic regression models, Magidson, et al (2016) found that drug use (and alcohol) are strongly associated with violence and sexual activity for both males and females. As drugs tend to encourage impulsive behaviour and impair one's judgement, some studies have demonstrated that those on drugs are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviour such as having sex without condoms or having multiple partners leading them to contract HIV and STI. In a survey of both sexual partner staking drugs and those not, Kalichman et al (2006) found that the psychopharmacological effects of some drugs boosted the sexual activity of drug users, thereby predisposing them to risky sexual behaviour (Morejele, 2006). For example, studies have shown the link between

methamphetamine use and increased libido and impulsivity, giving rise to risky sexual behavior and increased susceptibility to contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (Carrico et al., 2012);. This is also confirmed in Reddy (2010), where 14% of school going learners reported having drugs before engaging in sex. Many girls have become pregnant as the psychopharmacological effects of drugs compromise their judgements.

Other social effects of substance abuse to a youth include poor educational achievements, unemployment, crime, welfare dependence, poverty, social exclusion, marginalisation, and violent behaviour (Bouchery, 2011). Besides these maladies reinforcing each other, they in turn perpetuate substance abuse.

2.2.5 Child Sexual Abuse

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), child sexual abuse is “the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent” (WHO, 1999, p. 15). A 2015 study in the United States found that one in ten girls and one in thirteen boys ages zero to seventeen had experienced some form of sexual victimization during their lifetime (including non-contact offenses, such as being shown pornography) (Finkelhor, Turner, Shattuck, & Hamby, 2015). Girls ages fourteen to seventeen had the highest rates of sexual abuse, with over 16 percent reporting asexual victimization in the last year (Finkelhor et al., 2015). Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is a global issue; the international prevalence of sexual violence is estimated to be twelve percent (18% of girls and 8% of boys) (Stoltenborgh et al., 2011). In Iowa ten percent of adults reported experiencing sexual abuse as children (Central Iowa ACEs Coalition, 2016) and in 2016, 773 incidents of CSA were confirmed or founded by the Iowa Department of Human Services (IDHS), accounting for 12 percent of substantiated child maltreatment cases (IDHS, 2017). However, these numbers likely under represent the scope of CSA. Research has found that the majority of youth delay disclosure, particularly to authorities, often until adulthood (McElvaney, 2015).

Experience of CSA is associated with poor physical health and mental health outcomes (Leeb et al., 2011; Molnar et al., 2016). Children who have experienced maltreatment, including sexual abuse, are more likely to have physical health problems (Flaherty et al., 2013; Leeb et al., 2011) and can experience post-traumatic stress, suicidal thoughts and self-harm, and depression and anxiety (Leeb et al., 2011; Molnar et al., 2016). The impact of CSA has also

been shown to last into adulthood form any (Flaherty et al., 2013; Molnar et al., 2016). One study of children age ten to sixteen found no evidence of a decrease in victimization (including sexual) as a result of participation in a comprehensive prevention program (Finkelhor, Asdigian, & Dziuba-Leatherman, 1995b). Children were also no less likely to be injured as a result of victimization (Finkelhor et al., 1995b). In contrast, a more recent study of college-age women found that among the two thirds of those who said they had participated in a CSA prevention program, eight percent said they were abused after it took place, compared to fourteen percent among those who did not participate in any program (Gibson & Leitenberg, 2000).

Ko & Cosden (2001) found similar results after surveying high school students, with children who had participated in a prevention program reporting fewer incidents of abuse. Results from the 2014 wave of the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found some evidence that young children (aged five to nine) who attended higher quality violence prevention programs had lower rates of peer victimizations after attendance (Finkelhor et al., 2014). However, there was no difference in the rates of sexual victimization or other types of violence by adults following their participation in prevention programs (Finkelhor et al., 2014).

2.2.6 New Media and Child Rights Promotion in Nigeria

Field interventions in the application of the new media for child rights promotion point to some considerable progress, but there are challenges too. In line with the human rights analytical framework adopted tension, racism and xenophobia are perceived as minimal and as such there are no specific programmes designed to combat them.

This is particularly disturbing in the light of the fact that the Committee arising from the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) recommended in 1996 that "as a high priority further measures be undertaken by Nigeria to prevent and combat discrimination, especially on the grounds of gender and ethnic origin.

According to Jacomy and Stevens (2004) the committee in their recommendation asked for a more comprehensive and detailed explanation of current and planned programs to combat all forms of discrimination affecting children, indicating the scope of these interventions, the adopted methods of work, the legislative provisions, as well as institutional and budgetary provisions. Adding that the committee would therefore like to reiterate the recommendation made by the Centre for the Eradication of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), urging

“Nigeria to ensure full compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Child Rights Act 2003, which set the statutory minimum age of marriage at 18 years in all parts of the country, and encourage the Nigerian government to inform the Committee on measures taken to enforce – in legal terms as well as in practice - the minimum legal age for marriage, as well as for sexual consent, in line with the respect of the principles of non-discriminate.”

2.2.7The Children and Young Persons Act (CYPA)

The Children and Young Persons Act was initially enacted as an ordinance in 1943. It has been subsequently amended through several legislation (i.e. Ordinances 44 of 1945; 27 of 1947; 16 of 1950 as well as the Laws of Nigeria 131 of 1954; 47 of 1955.) and Order in Council 22 of 1946). Intended as a national law (Cap 32 laws of the Federation of Nigeria and Lagos 1958), provisions were made for their adoption as Regional laws and subsequently as state laws. As a result, the law was extended to the Eastern and Western Regions of Nigeria in 1946 by Order – in- Council, No 22 of 1946. The law was enacted for the Northern Region in 1958 and constituted the contents of its operation. The United nations convention on the Rights of the Child guarantees children certain rights including the right to be heard in matters that affect them and to share information freely (Jonyniene & Samuelsson, 1999) Many countries, including Nigeria have domesticated the Conventions by passing it into law, like the Nigerian Child right Act of 2003. Accordingly, children should not be subjected to any form of torture or inhuman or degrading treatment, forced or compulsory labour (Kemp et al; 2008).

Despite these provisions in the United Nations Convention and the Nigerian Constitution, children in Nigeria suffer cruelty, abuses, inhuman and degrading treatment, child labour and some are forced into prostitution. These saddening experiences have strong emotional impact on the victim. Often times, abused and neglected children are overwhelmed and shattered. This usually results in emotional imbalance which eventually manifest in delinquency and deviance (Tajudeen, 2015). In Nigeria, for instance, youth crime and breeding of street children are direct consequences of child abuse and neglect. But a situation where the government ratifies international conventions it cannot enforce locally is intolerable. A situation where the Child Rights Bill is passed and mere lip-service is paid to its implementation amounts to hypocrisy and apathy as far as issues of child abuse and neglect is concerned. Ademokun (2002) observed that “It is common knowledge that children in Nigeria are bludgeoned into child labour and prostitution by highly placed persons under the guise of philanthropy.” Given these

circumstances, the average Nigerian does not seem to be aware of the provisions of the Child Rights Bill needful to say the instruments before it (Dolezal et al; 2009).

It is even more worrisome in the light of the fact that most forms of youth violence, unrest, riots are linked with child abuse and neglect. The media are undoubtedly persuasive instruments in man's struggle for self-liberation and development. In line with this, Steinberg (1972) advanced that the mass media select and bring to waiting multitudes a constant flow of detail related to those fruitful dialogues of differences and concordance upon which free societies thrive. With respect to child rights issue, the media most especially television medium coverage has been used as weapon of awareness creation. In this regard, The United Nations Fund for Population (UNFPA) and Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) have produced "I Need to Know" a drama serial which is shown weekly on most TV stations in Nigeria. In Oredo local government area of Edo State for example, the programme is a regular feature on Edo Broadcasting Service (EBS), Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) and Independent Television (ITV). It addresses child rights, abuse, and welfare and issues. Similarly, Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF), at the instance of Abubakar the wife of Atiku Abubakar former Vice President in 2002 bankrolled the production of "Izozo" a drama serial on national television. This programme which shows weekly (NTA network service) is mainly on child labour and its evils. These T.V programmes, among many others, combine with a number of print media coverage are geared towards raising awareness on child rights, the evils of child abuse as well as to call on the public to debate these issues (Dolezal et al; 2009).

Article 17 of the Convention on the right of the child specifies the role the media play in the promotion and protection of Children's rights (UNICEF 2002:65-66). The Committee on the Rights of the Child (1996) believes that the media –both written and audio-visual are highly important in effort to make reality the principles and standards of the Convention. The media can play a pivotal role in monitoring the actual implementation of the rights of the child. The media are powerful because they penetrate every segment of modern-day society and effectively influence how people view themselves, their neighbours, their communities and their world. Media representation are the primary source of information on social problems for many people (Hutson and Liddiard, 1994). Maley (2000:37) for instance, notes that: "In social and cultural matters, the various media provide the main platform of debate and their choice of subjects, participants and opinion shape the agenda and much of its content."

The media play a significant role in forming and influencing people's attitude and behaviour (Brawley, 1995). Goddard and Saunders (2001), draw attention to the essential role of the media in increasing the society's awareness of, and response to, child abuse and neglect. News and features could be used to report child abuse cases, research and intervention strategies. Such media attention to child abuse can positively influence public opinion, professional and political responses to the circumstances in which children and young people find themselves. Ericson Baranek and chan (1987:3) observe that journalist play a major role in constructing what is considered "deviant" in our society and, therefore, what is "normal".

Journalist do not merely reflect the work of others who define deviance and attempt to control it, but are themselves in some ways agents of social control; they are "a kind of deviance defining elite" who articulate the "proper bounds of behaviour" in our society. In addition to news stories, feature articles and investigative journalism, sporadic mass media education and prevention campaigns could be launched. These campaigns will broaden community's knowledge of child abuse and neglect, influence people's attitude towards children and young people and change behaviours that contribute to, or precipitate the problem of child abuse and neglect in our communities. Children rights are claims that all children have for survival, development, protection and participation. The Child Development Department of the Ministry of Women Affairs and Youth Development, Federal Republic of Nigeria (1995:5), lists the basic principles of Children's rights:

- Every child has the right to life and be allowed to survive and develop.
- Every Child is entitled to a name, family and nationality.
- Every child is free to belong to any association or assembly according to the law.
- Every child has the right to express opinions and freely communicate them on any issue subject to restriction under the law.
- Every child is entitled to protection from any act that interferes with his or her privacy, honour and reputation.
- Every child is entitled to adequate rest, recreation (leisure and play) according to his her age and culture.
- Every child (male & female) is entitled to receive compulsory basic education and equal opportunity for higher education depending on individual ability.
- Every child is entitled to good health, protection from illness and proper medical attention for survival, personal growth and development.

- Every child must be protected from indecent and inhuman treatment through sexual exploitation, drug abuse, child labour, torture, maltreatment and neglect.
- No child should suffer any discrimination irrespective of ethnic, origin, birth, colour, sex, language, religion, political and social beliefs, status or disability.

Hammarberg (1996) outlines the specific functions that the media can perform in realization of the requirements of the Convention on the right of the child as follows:

TO MONITOR ABUSES-AND PROGRESS: It is hoped that violations of the children's right be reported in the media. Such scrutiny would probably be more effective than the international procedure prescribed by the convention which requires the government itself to report to the monitoring committee on steps for implementation. However the media could also draw from the official documentation in their reporting. The convention could be seen as the yardstick against which reality could be measured.

TO RESPECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE CHILD: One of the important aspects of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is that it presents a truly modern attitude towards children themselves. It recognizes the vulnerability of Children in certain circumstances but also their capacity and strength for development. A major emphasis in the convention is that each child is unique. All this can be undermined through negative stereotyping. Likewise, the media should be careful not to violate the integrity of individual children in their reporting on, for instance, crime and sexual abuse. The convention specifically protects the individual child from violations of his or her privacy, honour and reputation.

TO ALLOW CHILDREN PARTICIPATE IN THE MEDIA: One of the principles of the convention is that the views of children can be heard and given due respect. This is also reflected in articles about freedom of expression, thought, conscience and religion. It is the spirit of the provisions that children should not only be able to consume information material but also to participate themselves in the media. The idea is that children, in fact should be able to express themselves and that their views be sought.

TO PROTECT CHILDREN AGAINST HARMFUL INFLUENCES THROUGH THE MEDIA: While the convention requests access for children to the media, it also reflects concern about the risk if children are being harmed by some reports and information material. The idea is that the integrity of the child should be respected in the reporting. Another article says that the state should encourage guidelines to protect children at large from injurious media output, for instance certain violent and pornographic materials.

2.3 Theoretical Framework

The relevant theories that explain the phenomenon under investigation are the Social responsibility theory and the Perception theories.

2.3.1 Social Responsibility Theory

This theory provided explanation about the phenomenon under investigation and will provide a deep insight on the role of the broadcast media in a democratic setting like our Country Nigeria. The Social Responsibility Theory, first developed in the 1940s by Robert Maynard Hutchins, is still a guiding principle for the media today. To combat the pressures that threatened freedom of the press, this theory was first introduced in 1947 and was recommended by the Hutchins Commission on Freedom of the Press. It stated that the media should serve the public, and in order to do so, should remain free of government interference. It defined guidelines that the media should follow in order to fulfil its obligation of serving the public.

According to Middleton (2009, p.7) the social responsibility very much fall upon the reporters and producers of media, the media and journalists are expected to be advocates for social issues and reforms and matters of public interest. The media have it as an obligation to use its powerful position to ensure appropriate delivery of information that are of public interest to audiences. In both the Hutchins Commission report and the theory put forth by Siebert et al., the concept of public interest, albeit inexplicitly, lies at the heart of the definition of social responsibility. This highlights the crucial role of the communications sector in shaping societal processes: the formation of public opinion and civil society movements, social and political development patterns, including more tangible processes such as the unfurling of elections campaigns and their outcome (Middleton, 2009). It's a role of the media to tell or inform the public all about Child abuse and how it constitutes to the underdevelopment of the society when engaged in by the perpetrators. The media should owe it a duty to air child abuse related matter until it is completely lowered to a zero-level in Nigeria.

Situating this theory within the context of the phenomenon under study, it becomes necessary to underscore its relevance on explaining why the broadcast journalists owe it as a duty to protect and promote the right of a child albeit as its watchdog role.

2.3.2 Perception Theories

These theories explain how those who receive media contents make sense of reality of what they see. This is because one of the tenets of these theories is that the media audience is an active one. Perception in the context of this study refers to how journalists make sense of their various experiences as regards the promotion of the right of a child within the Nigerian context. Hence, for the purpose of this study, the four perception theories were considered as the theoretical foundation upon which this study is based. They include:

- (i) Selective Exposure
- (ii) Selective Attention
- (iii) Selective Perception
- (iv) Selective Retention

Selective Exposure: As a basis for how journalists make sense of media messages, selective exposure explains the natural tendencies why media audience seek out information that addresses their own interest. This interest stems from what they as Journalists consider as appropriate in their role as the voice of the Nigerian child on issues affecting them.

According to Folarin (1998):

It is only natural that people seek out information that caters for their own interests, confirms their belief and boosts their own ego while avoiding those that are contrary to their own predispositions and attacks their life style.

Selective Attention: At every given time an individual pays attention to particular information whether written, spoken or presented through audio-visual devices. This theory explains the psychological disposition of journalists in processing issues affecting the Nigerian child and presenting those issues to those who should take appropriate actions for the good of the child.

Selective Perception: The two underlying characteristics that determine how media audience perceives media messages are: their previous experience and current disposition. A particular individual may be favourably disposed to a media message, while another is not.

Folarin (1998) was of this view when he explained that:

Each of us tends to perceive and then decode communication messages in the light of our previous experiences and current dispositions – our needs, moods and memories.

Selective Retention: For a message to find expression in the long-term memory of its target audience, such messages must be well understood by the receiver. This explains why some messages are forgotten more quickly than others (Folarin, 1998)

Relating the above theory to the study, research studies that address issues concerning the Nigerian child show that the media appear to be insensitive to issues affecting the average child in Nigeria and this is likely due to a poor understanding of the plight of the Nigerian child within the Nigerian context.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

This study adopted the descriptive survey design. According to Wimmer and Dominick (2011, p.185): “a descriptive survey attempts to describe or document current conditions or attitudes” – that is, to explain what exists at the moment. All the studies reviewed in literature employed the descriptive survey method. They also assert that it provides detailed background about the reasons respondents give specific answers. Here, the researcher produces elaborate data concerning respondents’ opinions, values, motivations, recollections, experiences and feelings about a given phenomenon.

Survey method is appropriate in gathering data for a study of this nature because it enables the researcher to elicit behavioural responses from the study unit. It is adopted in this study because it will be used to elicit data regarding the opinions of the target audience (Broadcast Journalists) as it relates to Child Right Act in Nigeria.

3.2 Population of the Study

The study population consists of all registered journalists in south-east Nigeria. According to the NUJ database from the respective NUJ secretariat in the five (5) south east states the total population of registered journalists in South East Nigeria stood at 2,152 (i.e. Anambra = 435; Abia = 509; Imo = 483; Enugu = 395 and Ebonyi = 330) as at 2017 (source: NUT Secretariats of respective states).

3.3 Sample Size

A sample is “a smaller (but hopefully representative) collection of units from a population used to generalize about that population (Field, 2005). The purpose of sampling is to get a representative number that can be used to make generalization about the total population.

A basic sample of 300 was drawn using online sample size calculator advanced by Wimmer and Dominick (2013) with confidence level of 95% and confidence interval of 5.0% (<http://www.rogerwimmer.com/mmr9e/samplesizecalculator.htm>).

Sample Size Calculator

Confidence Level: ☒ 95% ☐ 99%

Confidence Interval (%):

Population size:
Do not use commas

Calculate **Clear**

Sample size needed:

Steps

1. **Confidence Level:** Click desired level
2. **Confidence Interval:** Enter %, such as 4.9 or 5.0
3. **Population:** Enter size if finite; otherwise, leave blank.
4. Hit calculate button

[Return to Wimmer Dominick](http://www.rogerwimmer.com/mmr9e/samplesizecalculator.htm)

<http://www.rogerwimmer.com/mmr9e/samplesizecalculator.htm>

Sample size for each of the selected states was determined using the Bowley's proportional sampling technique. This sampling technique is also known as proportional allocation method. It was originally proposed by Bowley (1926). In this method, the sampling fraction $\frac{n}{N}$ is same in all strata (i.e. Anambra, Ebonyi and Enugu states). This allocation was used to obtain a sample with greater speed and a higher degree of precision. The allocation of a given sample of size "n" to different stratum was done in proportion of their sizes (i.e. in the i^{th} stratum) as shown below:

$$\text{Formula for Bowley's sampling technique} = n_i = n \left(\frac{N_i}{N} \right)$$

Where: n = sample size

N_i = population size of the i^{th} strata

N = population size of the study

$$\text{Anambra} = n_1 = 300 \times \frac{435}{1160} = (300 \times 0.375) = 112.50 \text{ (approx.. 113)}$$

$$\text{Ebonyi} = n_2 = 300 \times \frac{330}{1160} = (300 \times 0.285) = 85.34 \text{ (approx. 85)}$$

$$\text{Enugu} = n_3 = 300 \times \frac{395}{1160} = (300 \times 0.341) = 102.15 \text{ (approx. 102)}$$

3.4 Sampling Procedures

This study also adopts the multi-stage sampling procedure involving simple random sampling, convenience sampling and Bowley's sampling techniques.

Stage One: Three (3) States were selected from the five (5) South Eastern States in Nigeria using simple random sampling. They include: (Anambra, Enugu and Ebonyi States) respectively. This was done so that there will be equal chance of selection for all the states in the south east.

Stage Two: Accidental sampling technique was used to locate the respondents in each of the selected states in south east, Nigeria. This was done using strict intersect (i.e. administering questionnaire to any available broadcast journalist within the study area).

Table 1: Distribution of sample selection from the South East States of Nigeria

S/N	Strata	Population	Sample Size
1.	Anambra State	435	113
2.	Ebonyi State	330	85
3.	Enugu State	395	102
	Total	1,160	300

3.5 Research Instruments

In order to elicit defined responses from the respondents, appropriate instrument for data collection should be used. In this study structured Questionnaire was the instrument used to collect data for the study.

The Questionnaire

The structured questionnaire consists of 46 items grouped under various sub-headings ranging from the Demographic Characteristics of the respondents, to the Socio-Economic Characteristics as well as questions and Likert scale format statements based on the research

questions proposed for the study. Item 1 – 7 on the questionnaire covers the demographic and socio-economic characteristics. Item 8 – 12 covers responses that address research question one; item 13 – 24 covers research question two; item 25 – 34 covers research question three while item 35 – 46 addressed research question four.

3.6 Validity / Reliability of Research Instrument

The researcher adopted face-validity for the Structured Questionnaire. Here, the project supervisor undertook this to check if the instrument can truly measure what it was designed to measure.

On the other hand, a pilot study involving 20 copies of questionnaire was carried out in a particular NUJ chapel in one of the selected states among broadcast journalists as a pre-test for the instrument and the data gathered was then tested for internal consistency, using SPSS version 20.0 software, with Cronbach Alpha co-efficient. The result is given below:

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
.909	46

From the above reliability result, it revealed that the instrument had a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.909 which implies that it is 90% reliable.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

The copies of questionnaire were self-administered with the help of three (3) research assistants. The data collection for each state is expected to run for a period of 24 days for the 12 selected LGAs of the states. Hence, the entire data collection process is proposed to take about a minimum of 90 days (i.e. 3 months).

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

The data collected in this study was coded in numerical values (as it is shown in the questionnaire) so that it would be easy to analyze using SPSS version 20.0 software for statistical analysis. The result for the analysis was presented in tables showing frequencies and percentages as well as mean scores and standard deviation scores based on the objectives of the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This section contains the presentation of data analyzed. The results were presented in tables showing frequencies, percentages, mean and standard deviation. The findings emanating from the results were later discussed as they provide answers to the research questions for the study.

4.1 Data Presentation and Analysis

A total of 300 copies of questionnaire were distributed among Journalists in south east Nigeria. Out of this number, 288 copies were returned which gives a return rate of 96% from the respondents. The results from the data analyzed are presented below:

Table 4.1: Distribution of responses showing the demographic details of respondents

S/N	Variables		Frequency	Percentage
1.	Age:	20 – 30 years	89	31%
		31 – 40 years	127	44%
		41 – 50 years	70	24%
		51 years and above	2	1%
2.	Sex:	Male	170	59%
		Female	118	41%
3.	Marital Status:	Single	123	42%
		Married	155	54%
		Divorced	-	0%
		Widowed	5	2%
		Separated	5	2%
4.	Religion:	Christianity	286	99%
		Islam	2	1%
5.	Educational Qualification:	Secondary Education	5	2%
		First Degree	202	70%
		Masters' Degree	77	27%
		Doctorate Degree	4	1%
Total			288	100

The results on the demographic details of respondents show that there is a preponderance of Journalists within the age range of 31 – 40 years as affirmed by 127 respondents (44%). This is followed by those within the age range of 20 – 30 years recording 89 (31%) as well as those between 41 and 50 years as affirmed by 70 (24%). At the bottom of that section of the table are respondents whose age range is from 51 years and above recording an abysmal 2 (1%) as shown in Table 4.1 above.

On the section of Sex, the result showed that there are more Male Journalists (170 representing 59%) than Female Journalists (i.e. 118 representing 41%). Most of the Journalists (155 representing 54%) are Married as 123 (42%) affirmed their Marital Status to be ‘Single’. At the bottom of this section of the table are those who are widowed and separated recording 5 (2%) each.

Furthermore, majority (99%) of the respondents were found to be Christians as affirmed by 286 respondents as against an abysmal 2 (1%) who are from the Islamic religion. Lastly, on the section of Educational Qualifications, most of the Journalists sampled in south east Nigeria had First Degree (202 representing 70%). This is followed by those with Masters’ Degree recording 77 (27%) leaving those with Doctorate Degree and Secondary Education at the bottom of that section of the table with 4 (1%) and 2 (1%) respectively.

Table 4.2: Distribution of responses showing how long respondents have been Journalists

S/N	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Below 5 years	85	30%
2.	5 – 10 years	129	45%
3.	10 – 15 years	41	14%
4.	Above 15 years	33	11%
	Total	288	100

The years of experience of any individual has the capacity to predispose such individual to being exposed to certain vital information based on one’s profession. This underscores the result on years of being a Broadcast Journalist as shown in Table 4.2 above. From the result, majority (129) of the respondents had been Broadcast Journalists for about 5 – 10 years (representing 45%). This is followed by respondents who had below 5 years of experience as

affirmed by 85 (30%) and those with 10 – 15 years of experience recording 41 (14%). At the bottom of the table are respondents with above 15 years of experience recording 33 (11%). The implication of this is that about 10% of the entire Journalists in this study have more than 15 years of experience, which presupposes that they are expected to be well exposed to issues of Child Right Act and this has been confirmed by the earlier findings where 100% of the journalists are knowledgeable about the content of the Child Right Act in Nigeria.

Table 4.3: Distribution of responses showing the type of media affiliation of respondents

S/N	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Government Media	125	43%
2.	Private Media	163	57%
	Total	288	100

There is a preponderance of Journalist affiliated to Private Media houses (163 representing 57%) when compared to those affiliated to Government Media House (125 representing 43%) as shown in Table 4.3 above. What this means is that Private Media Houses have attractive incentives that may have been responsible for an influx of Journalists and possibly due to the flexible nature of their operations.

Table 4.4: Distribution of responses showing the level of awareness of Child Right Act among Broadcast Journalists

S/N	Questions	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Are you aware of the Child Right Act in Nigeria?	Yes	288	100%
		No	-	0%
2.	Are you aware that the Child Right Act in Nigeria has been signed into law?	Yes	283	98%
		No	5	2%
	Total		288	100

The results in Table 4.4 above show that all (100%) the Broadcast Journalists in south east Nigeria are aware of the Child Right Act in Nigeria but majority (283 representing 98%) of the Journalists are aware that it has been signed into law while a negligible few (5 representing

2%) said they are not aware that it has been signed into law. The implication of this result is that a few Broadcast Journalists in south east Nigeria are not current with legislative issues as regards children right.

Table 4.5: Distribution of responses showing the knowledge level of Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria on the Child Right Act in Nigeria

S/N	Questions	Variables	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Do you know the content of the Child Right Act in Nigeria?	Yes	236	82%
		No	52	18%
2.	Are you knowledgeable about the principles of Child Right in Nigeria?	Yes	207	72%
		No	81	28%
3.	Has the Child Right Act been domesticated in all the 36 states in Nigeria?	Yes	25	9%
		No	197	68%
		Can't Say	66	23%
Total			288	100

On the knowledge level of Child Right Act in Nigeria found among Broadcast Journalists in South East, the result revealed that 236 (82%) know the content of the Act while 207 (72%) are knowledgeable about the principles of the Act. On whether or not the Child Right Act has been domesticated in all the 36 states of Nigeria, 25 (9%) of the respondents replied in the affirmative, showing that they know that it has been domesticated in all the states in Nigeria.

The result also showed that 52 (18%) of Broadcast Journalists in south east Nigeria do not know the content of the Child Right Act while 81 (28%) claimed they lack knowledge of the principles of the Act. Furthermore, most of the respondents (197 representing 68%) claimed that the Act has not been domesticated in all the 36 states of the federation as 66 (23%) were undecided as to whether or not the Act has been domesticated in all the 36 states in Nigeria.

Table 4.6: Distribution of responses showing how well respondents are knowledgeable about the principles of the Child Right Act in Nigeria

S/N	Variables	SA	A	D	SD	U	Mean	St.D
1.	Every child has the right to life and be allowed to survive	269	18	-	1	-	4.927	0.2976
2.	Every child is entitled to a name, family and nationality	270	17	-	1	-	4.930	0.2928
3.	Every child has a right to choose what he/she wants without parental interference	99	33	44	112	-	3.413	1.3090
4.	Every child is free to belong to any association of his/her choice	52	31	68	136	1	2.989	1.1491
5.	Every child has a right to express opinion and freely communicate them on any issue subject to restriction under the law	81	62	90	52	3	3.576	1.1111
6.	Every child has a right to adequate rest and recreation according to his/her age and culture	143	120	6	19	-	4.344	0.8157
7.	Every child (male or female) is entitled to receive compulsory basic education and equal opportunity for higher education depending on individual ability	233	41	4	5	5	4.708	0.7408
8.	Every child is entitled to own property as stipulated by law	114	53	75	41	5	3.799	1.1602
9.	Every child must be protected from indecent and inhuman treatment through sexual exploitation, drug abuse, child labour, etc	246	40	-	2	-	4.840	0.4201
10.	Every child has a right to go to any place of his/her choice without parental interference	65	39	19	76	89	2.705	1.5683
11.	Every child has a right to buy whatever he/she wants so long as it is not harmful to him/her	64	83	49	91	1	3.409	1.1592
12.	Every child has a right to belong to any religion of his/her choice	43	27	60	144	14	2.795	1.1611

In rating the knowledge level of respondents on the principles of the Child Right Act in Nigeria as shown in Table 4.6, the researcher developed a weighing scale that aided the decision rule showing how knowledgeable Broadcast Journalists are on the principles of Child Right Act in Nigeria. Here is a summary of the weighing scale:

- Mean scores within the limit of real numbers of 5.00 – 4.45 (YES Decision)
- Mean scores within the limit of real numbers of 4.44 – 3.45 (YES Decision)
- Mean scores within the limit of real numbers of 3.44 – 2.45 (NO Decision)
- Mean scores within the limit of real numbers of 2.44 – 1.45 (NO Decision)

From the results on how well respondents are knowledgeable on the principles of the Child Right Act in Nigeria, the following were the ratings of their responses based on the weighing scale above.

- Items 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 from Table 4.6 had “Yes” Decision Rule
- Items 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12 from Table 4.6 had “No” Decision Rule.

From the above ratings from the decision rule, the result shows 75% knowledgeability on the principles of the Child Right Act found among Broadcast Journalists based on their responses to the knowledge statements.

The areas where the respondents gave wrong answers in the knowledge statements test were:

- “Every child is free to belong to any association of his/her choice” (Here, the mean score recorded 2.989 which indicates a preponderance of “No” response). In the real sense, the statement is actually true to the principles of the Child Right Act in Nigeria but most of the respondents gave a negative response.
- “Every child is entitled to own property as stipulated by the law” (Here, the mean score was 3.799 which indicates a preponderance of “Yes” response). However, the statement is not true to the principles of the Child Right Act because it not contained in the Act.
- “Every child has a right to buy whatever he/she wants so long as it is not harmful to him/her” (Here, the mean score recorded 3.409 which indicates “Yes” response). But such statement is not in any way contained in the principles of the Child Right Act in Nigeria.

The implication of this result is that Broadcast Journalists lack of knowledge of the principles of the Child Right Act in Nigeria will put them at a disadvantaged position when it comes to promoting the right of the Nigerian child in their reportage.

Table 4.7: Distribution of responses showing Broadcast Journalists attitude towards Child Right Issues in Nigeria

S/N	Variables	SA	A	D	SD	U	Mean	St.D
1.	Reporting child right issues does not have any economic advantage that is why I don't give attention to it.	72	55	53	104	4	3.302	1.2336
2.	Some children issues are not newsworthy hence, does not worth reporting	59	80	72	76	1	3.417	1.0980
3.	Children issues are trivial issues, hence, does not worth reporting	71	52	29	134	2	3.194	1.2758
4.	Children should be given attention because they are vulnerable group in the society	169	110	5	1	3	4.531	0.6566
5.	I don't report children issues because it is not my beat	46	89	89	61	3	3.396	1.0239
6.	T report children issues because their voices need to be heard	95	167	12	9	5	4.174	0.7905
7.	I don't report children issues because they are minors	73	37	27	141	10	3.076	1.3308
8.	Reporting children issues can be tasking and quite involving that is why I avoid it.	54	51	81	95	7	3.174	1.1527
9.	Reporting children issues can be interesting, hence I love reporting the beat	95	80	74	33	6	3.781	1.0904
10.	I avoid reporting children issues because I don't want to go against the law	40	24	61	143	20	2.726	1.1587

Here, the researcher used “Limit of Real Numbers” (LRN) as the benchmark for ascertaining the decision rule for each response in Table 4.7 above. The Limit of Real Numbers for each value that represents the 5-point likert scale is given as follows:

- For “**Strongly Agree**” decision (5 Points) = 5.00 – 4.45
- For “**Agree**” decision (4 Points) = 4.44 – 3.45
- For “**Disagree**” decision (3 Points) = 3.44 – 2.45
- For “**Strongly Disagree**” decision (2 Points) = 2.44 – 1.45
- For “**Undecided**” decision (1 Point) = 1.44 – 0.45

The results in Table 4.7 which measures the attitude of Broadcast Journalists towards Child Right issues showed that out of the 10 responses, there was a preponderance of responses recording mean scores within the limit of real numbers for “**Disagree**” decision (i.e. 3.44 – 2.45).

The responses include:

- “Reporting child right issues does not have any economic advantage that is why I don’t give attention to it.” (M = 3.302)
- “Some children issues are not newsworthy, hence, does not worth reporting.” (M = 3.417)
- “Children issues are trivial issues, hence, does not worth reporting.” (M = 3.194)
- “I don’t report children issues because it is not my beat.” (M = 3.396)
- “I don’t report children issues because they are minors.” (M = 3.076)
- “Reporting children issues can be tasking and quite involving that is why I avoid it.” (M = 3.174)
- “I avoid reporting children issues because I don’t want to go against the law.” (M = 2.726)

The result also showed that out of the three remaining responses, two had mean scores within the limit of real numbers for “**Agree**” decisions while one had mean scores within the limit of real numbers for “**Strongly Agree**” decision. They include:

- “I report children issues because their voice needs to be heard.” (M = 4.174) “**Agree**” **decision**
- “Reporting children issues can be interesting, hence, I love reporting the beat.” (M = 3.781) “**Agree**” **decision**
- “Children should be given attention because they are vulnerable group in the society.” (M = 4.531) “**Strongly Agree**” **decision**

The implication of the above results is that Broadcast Journalists give attention to reporting children issues on the basis that they feel children should be given a voice having come to agree that they belong to the vulnerable group in the society. Even though there are certain rights they feel should not be accorded to children probably because of their age.

Table 4.8: Distribution of responses showing the extent to which Broadcast Journalists in south east Nigeria promote Child Right in Nigeria

S/N	Variables	SA	A	D	SD	U	Mean	St.D
1.	I sensitize the public about the principles of Child's Right in Nigeria	105	90	62	23	8	3.906	1.0698
2.	The media I work for give more broadcast time to programme that promote child right in Nigeria	94	91	52	45	6	3.771	1.1275
3.	I use news and features to report child abuse issues	109	107	68	-	4	4.101	0.8556
4.	I sensitize the public on the benefits of educating the Nigerian child (especially the girl-child)	98	91	66	26	7	3.858	1.0644
5.	Journalists should construct what is called "deviant" in the society and not merely reflect the work of others who define deviance.	100	104	52	24	8	3.917	1.0526
6.	I don't use pictures of children (minors) when reporting crime or sexually related stories	95	73	38	36	46	3.469	1.4576
7.	Children are allowed to participate in programme in the media where I work	131	90	13	48	6	4.014	1.1656
8.	I monitor the abuse and progress of children in my reporting and follow it to its logical conclusion	98	57	72	50	11	3.629	1.2229
9.	The government need to set up an implementation mechanism to monitor the domestication of Child Right Act in all states	197	84	6	-	1	4.653	0.5577
10.	Journalists should give voice to children in their reportage especially when their rights are violated	206	76	4	-	2	4.681	0.5742
11.	I try not to undermine the integrity of the Nigerian child in my reportage	170	108	2	3	5	4.510	0.7325
12.	I interview children when I report issues that concern them	180	94	1	4	9	4.500	0.8472

The researcher used the Limit of Real Numbers (LRN) benchmark to analyze the results in Table 4.8 above. From the results, it showed that out of the 12 responses used to measure the extent to which Broadcast Journalists in south east have promoted Child Right issues in Nigeria, all the mean scores fall within the Limit of Real Numbers for “Agree” decision (i.e. 4.44 – 3.45) and “Strongly Agree” decisions (i.e. 5.00 – 4.45) respectively indicating that Broadcast Journalists in south east Nigeria did promote Child Right issues in their reportage to a large extent.

More specifically, eight (8) out of the 12 responses had mean scores that fall within the Limit of Real Numbers for “Agree” decision (i.e. 4.44 – 3.45) representing 67%, while the remaining four (4) responses had mean scores which fall within the Limit of Real Numbers for “Strongly Agree” decisions (i.e. 5.00 – 4.45) representing 33% from the analysis made.

The following responses had mean scores which fall within the Limit of Real Numbers for “Strongly Agree” decisions:

- “The government need to set up an implementation mechanism to monitor the domestication of Child Right Act in all the 36 states in Nigeria.” (M = 4.653)
- “Journalists should give voice to children in their reportage especially when their rights are violated.” (M = 4.510)
- “I interview children when I report issues that concern them.” (M = 4.500).

4.2 Discussion of Findings

The findings that emanated from this study are discussed based on the objectives of the study and how they provide answers to the proposed research questions in this study. Also, these findings were discussed along-side other findings in literature to check if they corroborated the findings in this study or whether there are areas of disagreement.

Research Question One: What is the level of awareness of Child Right Act among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria?

The answer to the above research question is found in Tables 4.1, 4.2 and 4.4 which show the demographic details of respondents, their years of experience as Broadcast Journalists and their level of awareness of Child Right Act in Nigeria.

From the results, this study found that most of the respondents (44%) are between 31 – 40 years of age and are Married (54%) with First Degree (70%) as their educational qualifications and have also been Journalists for about 5 – 10 years (45%) now.

The above findings were found to have informed the 100% level of awareness of Child Right Act found among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria. What this means is that they know that there is a legislation made on Child Right Act in Nigeria. However, further findings revealed that a few of the Broadcast Journalists (2%) don't actually know that the Act has been signed into law.

The implication of this finding is that levels of awareness are relative among Broadcast Journalists which points to the fact that some Journalists are up-to-date with happenings in the country while some others are not.

People become aware of what they constantly expose themselves to and such exercise of constant exposure tends to be selective among defined groups. This agrees with the point Folarin (1998) tries to make in his explanation of Selective Exposure as one of the Perception Theories. According to him, Selective Exposure explains the natural tendencies why media audience seek out information that addresses their own interest. Here, Broadcast Journalists have the tendencies (just like other media audiences) to selectively expose themselves to certain information which they feel are of interest to them. The implication here is that Child Right issues appears not to be of interest to some Broadcast Journalists as indicated in the level of awareness on Child Right Act being signed into law found among Broadcast Journalists.

The implication of this finding to the problem statement in the study is that despite the increased level of awareness of Child Right Act among Journalists in south east Nigeria, there seem to be no concomitant response to the needs and aspirations of the children via the role of the Journalists as way of promoting the fundamental principles of the Child Right Act in Nigeria. In relation to the literature in the study, the finding showed some corroboration between the Journalists level of awareness of the Child Right Act and the role in promoting it. It revealed that Journalists promoted Child Right Act in three areas: child participation, service provision and protection of young people in media coverage.

Research Question Two: How well are Broadcast Journalists in South East Knowledgeable about Child Right Act in Nigeria?

The answer to the above research question is found in Tables 4.5 and 4.6 which show results on knowledge level of Child Right Act and its principles among Broadcast Journalists respectively.

From the results, this study found that though all (100%) the Broadcast Journalists are aware of Child Right Act in Nigeria as earlier stated, majority (82%) are knowledgeable about its contents. Also, the level of knowledge about the principles of Child Right Act was found to be more (72%) among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria.

Whereas, a negligible few (9%) were found to be knowledgeable about its domestication in some parts of Nigeria.

The above findings on level of knowledge on principles and contents of Child Right Act in Nigeria among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria was corroborated by the findings from the results in Table 4.6 which is on the knowledge level rating indicators.

From the result, this study found that Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria scored 75% in their knowledge rating on the principles of Child Right Act which also indicates their level of knowledge of its content. This finding agrees with earlier findings in this study on level of awareness of Child Right Act being signed into law, where 2% of Broadcast Journalists were found not to be aware of such promulgation.

Also, in this study, findings reveal that 68% of Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria don't know whether Child Right Act has been domesticated in all the 36 states of Nigeria. The implication of this finding is that Broadcast Journalists are not up-to-date on the efforts made by various states in Nigeria at domesticating the Child Right Act and making sure that its principles are upheld in all the 36 states in Nigeria.

The implication of this finding to the theoretical framework is that the onus is on the Journalists to uphold the Child Right Act as their own social responsibility in news reportage, hence, the need for them to have adequate knowledge of its content. This informs the 100% level of knowledge found about the Child Right Act among the Journalists in this study.

Research Question Three: What is the attitude of Broadcast Journalists in South East towards Child Right Issues in Nigeria?

Table 4.7 provides answers to the above research questions as it reveals the various responses from Broadcast Journalist which shows their attitude towards Child Right issues in their reportage. From the result, this study found that there is a preponderance of positive attitude

towards Child Right issues which is not connected to money. Newsworthiness, assigned beat, children being minors, its reportage being tasking or fear of going against the law. What this means is that Broadcast Journalists who do not show positive attitude towards Child Right issues has other reasons for doing so which has nothing to do with the reasons mentioned above.

This is corroborated by the findings from studies carried out by Asemah, Edegoh and Ogwo (2012) and Saunders and Goddard (2002) where they found that lack of positive attitude from Journalists towards child right issues stems from the fact that they failed to harness the various platforms available in the media which mainstream on achieving the three main elements of child right agenda: child participation, service provision and protection of young people. This was further elucidated by Fayoyin (2011) where he argued that the opportunities which the new media provides gives the journalist a platform to give voice to this voiceless group of the society as regards issues that relate to their rights.

As recommended by the Convention for the Right of the Child (1996), priority attention should be given to the child by initiating measures that will prevent and combat discrimination (especially among media practitioners on what to report) on the ground of gender and ethnic origin. When these factors are allowed to play in media practice, the issues about protecting the right of the child through media reportage will be adversely affected.

Journalists attitude are built over time, as opined by Jacomy and Stevens (2004), but the extent to which these can be geared towards a favourable dispositions to issues of child right in the Nigerian context leaves much to be desired with the prevailing circumstance where certain media house policies have undermined the expectations of the masses from the social responsibility role of the media in Nigeria.

Further findings in this study revealed that positive attitude towards Child Right issues found among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria were influenced by the fact that children are vulnerable groups in the society who needs to be given a voice. This was found to be what makes reporting Child Right issues interesting to most of the Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria.

The implication of this finding is that one's vulnerability and disadvantaged state is an influencing factor that is capable of drawing sympathy and assistance from those who can offer such. This underscores the perception theory used in this study. According to the theory, people tend to show positive attitude towards what they perceive as having the tendency to put them in a disadvantaged position when ignored.

Research Question Four: To what extent do Broadcast Journalists in South East promote Child Right in Nigeria?

The answer to the above research question is found in Table 4.8 which shows responses indicating efforts at promoting Child Right among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria is believed to have informed a preponderance of affirmative responses found on statements indicating efforts at promoting Child Right Act in media reportage.

From the result, this study found that all (100%) statements indicating efforts at promoting Child Right Act in Nigeria among Broadcast Journalists received affirmative responses. However, more of the affirmative responses (i.e. Strongly Agree) were found to be on “mechanism to monitor Child Right Act domestication in all states in Nigeria,” “Giving voice to children in media reportage especially when their rights are violated,” “Not undermining the integrity of children in media reportage” and “allowing children have their say on issues that concern them.”

The above findings corroborated the tenets and principles of Child Right Act in Nigeria. Goddard and Saunders (2001) pointed out that it is the essential role of the media to increase society’s awareness of, and response to, child abuse and neglect using news and features as well as research and intervention strategies.

The implication of this finding is that it agrees with the contents of Article 17 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which specifies the role Journalists should play in the promotion and protection of children’s rights (UNICEF, 2002).

The Article states that States Parties shall:

- (f) Encourage the mass media to disseminate information and material of social and cultural benefit to the child and in accordance with the spirit of article 29;
- (g) E n c o u r a g e international cooperation on the production, exchange and dissemination of such information and material from a diversity of cultural, national and international sources;
- (h) Encourage the production and dissemination of children's books;
- (i) Encourage the mass media to have particular regard to the linguistic needs of the child who belongs to a minority group or who is indigenous;
- (j) Encourage the development of appropriate guidelines for the protection of the child from information and material injurious to his or her well-being, bearing in mind the provisions of articles 13 and 18 (UNICEF . 2002:65-66).

The above findings also underscore the position of the Centre for the Eradication of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in pursuance of the promotion of Child Right Act in Nigeria. According to the CEDAW (cited in Ani, 2015) Nigerians should endure full compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the child by adhering to the minimum standard spelt out in the Child Right Act as regards marriage at 18 years. Where this is not the case, the Journalist should rise up to the occasion by beaming his searchlight on the issue and bring it to public discourse where it will receive “fair hearing” and attract the attention of International Community.

4.3 Summary of Findings

This study set out to investigate the awareness and attitude of Broadcast Journalists in the promotion of Child Right Act in South East Nigeria. The study was guided by four specific objectives: to find out the level of awareness of Child Right Act; how knowledgeable Broadcast Journalists are about the principles of the Act; their attitude towards Child Right issues and the extent to which they promote Child Right in Nigeria.

Here, is a run-down of the summary of the findings made in this study:

1. There is 100% level of awareness of Child Right Act found among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria.
2. Majority (98%) of Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria were also found to be aware that the Child Right Act has been signed into law.
3. The knowledge level of the content of the Child Right Act was found to be 82% among Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria but from the knowledge test statements which showed their ratings, it was found that 75% of the Broadcast Journalists did have knowledge of content of Child Right Act in Nigeria.
4. Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria were found to have shown positive attitude towards Child Right issues which is not connected to economic reasons, newsworthiness of such issues, its trivial nature, their assigned beat, children being minors, such issues being tasking or fear of going against the law.
5. Their positive attitude towards Child Right issues was found to be influenced by three factors namely: the vulnerability of the group, the need for their voice to be heard and the interesting nature of reporting issues that concern children.

6. Broadcast Journalists in South East Nigeria did promote Child Right Act to a large extent as indicated in their responses to the need for a mechanism to monitor its domestication in all the states; giving children a voice in their reportage; not undermining the integrity of the child and allowing children have their say on issues concerning them.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study examines the awareness and attitude of Broadcast Journalists in the promotion of Child Right Act in South East Nigeria. This study was anchored on the Social Responsibility Theory and the Perception theory. The former espouses the tenets of that which underscores the role of the Mass Media as enshrined in the fundamental principles of the constitution while the later finds expression in how individuals make sense of the reality of the world as used in this study. The major findings in this study include: there is increased level of awareness of the Child Right Act among Journalists in south east Nigeria but their knowledge of its content was found to be on the average. Their concern to child right issues was found to be unconnected with economics reasons, newsworthiness of such issue, its trivial nature as well as treating it as an assigned beat among others. Despite journalist efforts at promoting Child Right in Nigeria, it was found that the provision of a mechanism for its monitoring is imperative towards achieving effective result.

Furthermore, Journalists in south east Nigeria were found to show positive attitude towards Child Right issues and this was also found to be influenced by three factors namely: the vulnerability of the group (i.e. children), the need for their voice to be heard and the interesting nature of reporting issues that concern children. Lastly, the study found that Journalists in south east Nigeria did promote Child Right Act to a large extent as indicated in their responses to the need for a mechanism to monitor its domestication in all the states in Nigeria.

5.2 Conclusion

The following conclusions are drawn from the findings in this study: One's awareness of a given issue does not pre-suppose one's knowledgeability of such issue. Also, the level of knowledge is determined by constant exposure to the contents of an issue which should be of interest to such individuals. The vulnerable or disadvantaged state of an individual can influence his or her positive attitude from others which is not connected to economic or personal gain. Issues of national interest has the potential of engendering positive attitude from a greater population of the citizens of the country. Positive attitude over as given issue is a determining factor to promoting such issue irrespective of its delicate nature.

Also, the ethics of the Journalism profession has in one way or the other influenced the role that Journalists play on issues of Child Right. This is because Journalists see the need to promote Child Right issues because of their understanding that its provisions hinges on the moral code which the ethics of the Journalism profession espouses as regards giving attention to minors and the need to make their voice heard.

5.3 Recommendations

From the above findings in this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. Journalists should always give attention to issues of public interest since they represent the fourth estate of the realm. This will give credibility to their role in holding the government accountable to the people they serve as well as give the voiceless a voice in the society.
2. Media should not be selective in what they report or the interest they give attention to in carrying out their duty. This will help increase the trust the masses repose on the media and give them a pride of place as the fourth estate of the realm.
3. Government (i.e. the Executive) should provide the enabling environment for Journalists to perform their role as the fourth estate of the realm. This they can do by allowing the media access to information that will aid the success of their work as Journalists. They could also provide a mechanism that ensures complete domestication of the Child Right Act in the all the 36 states of the federation. This will provide the Journalist with the strong backings to promote child right issues in every part of Nigeria.
4. Journalists should hold state government accountable of what the public expects from them especially as it concerns the domestication of certain laws. They can do this by mounting pressure on the government to see the urgent need of domesticating the law to give them strong footing.
5. There should be periodic evaluation of media roles in meeting the demands of the social responsibility tenets of the media. Media practitioners can achieve this through periodic evaluation of efforts made by the media in hold public officers accountable in their roles as promised or stipulated in the constitution.

5.4 Limitation of the Study

This study was limited in methodological approach. A content analysis of the basic principles of the child right act would have given this study a wholesome outlook and situate it in the stance for overall generalization of findings for both the legislators and Journalists. This is because the former promulgated the content of the Child Right Act while the latter uses its content to protect the right of the child. Also, the use of In-depth Interview would also help to give a balance view of responses from the Journalists as the use of questionnaire alone does not suffice to cover for both quantitative and qualitative approach for a study of this magnitude.

5.5 Suggestion for further Studies

1. A replication of this study in any of the three northern geo-political zones is vital to give a different perspective to the findings of this study.
2. There is need for a content analysis on the Child Right Act. This is to ascertain its relevance based on the current realities of certain experiences of children in our present society as touching certain cultural undertones in some parts of Nigeria.
3. A comparative study will also be relevant to measure awareness and attitude of Journalists in promoting Child Right Act across geo-political zones (i.e. North East and South East).
4. A replication of this study among print Journalists is important to get their perspective to the issue of Child Right Act in Nigeria.

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APPENDIX I
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR BROADCAST JOURNALISTS

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE ON BROADCAST JOURNALISTS' AWARENESS AND ATTITUDE TOWARDS PROMOTING CHILD RIGHT ACT IN SOUTH EAST NIGERIA 	
QUESTIONNAIRE NO:	STATE:

Good day Sir/Madam

I am EYIBE, Nneoma, a postgraduate student in the Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. I am conducting a study on broadcast journalists' awareness and attitude towards child right Act in Nigeria.

You are humbly requested to provide objective answers to enable me obtain data for the study. I promise that information provided in the questionnaire will be used only for academic purposes. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

Eyibe, Nneoma

INSTRUCTION:

Read the following questions and indicate your agreement with each item (1-86) by ticking (✓) in the box as in or supplying the answer as appropriate.

SECTION A (Demographic Details)

1. Age: (a) 20 – 30 years ☐ (b) 31 – 40 years ☐ (c) 41 – 50 years ☐
(d) 51 years and above ☐
2. Sex: (a) Male ☐ (b) Female ☐
3. Marital Status: (a) Single ☐ (b) Married ☐ (c) Divorced ☐
(d) Widowed ☐ (e) Separated ☐
4. Religion: (a) Christianity ☐ (b) Islam ☐ (c) ATR ☐
5. Educational Qualification: (a) No Education ☐ (b) Primary School ☐
(c) Secondary School ☐ (d) First Degree ☐ (e) Masters ☐ (f) Doctorate ☐

SECTION B (Socio-Economic Characteristics)

6. How long have you been a Journalist?(a) Below 5 years ☐ (b) 5 – 10 years ☐
(c) 10 – 15 years ☐ (d) Above 15 years ☐
7. Which media firm do you work for? (a) Government ☐ (b) Private ☐

SECTION C (Awareness of Child Right Act in Nigeria)

S/N	Variables	Yes	No
8.	Are you aware of the Child Right Act in Nigeria?		
9.	Are you aware that the Child Right Act in Nigeria has been signed into law?		
10.	Do you know the content of the Child Right Act in Nigeria?		
11.	Are you knowledgeable about the principles of Child's Right in Nigeria?		

12. Has the Child Right Act been domesticated in all the 36 states in Nigeria?

- (a) Yes ☐ (b) No ☐ (c) Can't Say ☐

SECTION D (How well are Broadcast Journalists knowledgeable about the Principles of Child Right in Nigeria?)

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), Undecided (U)

S/N	Variables	SA	A	D	SD	U
13.	Every child has the right to life and be allowed to survive					
14.	Every child is entitled to a name, family and nationality					
15.	Every child has a right to choose what he/she wants without parental interference					
16.	Every child is free to form any association of his/her choice					
17.	Every child has a right to express opinions and freely communicate them on any issue subject to restriction under the law					
18.	Every child has a right to adequate rest and recreation according to his/her age and culture					
19.	Every child (male or female) is entitled to receive compulsory basic education and equal opportunity for higher education depending on individual ability					
20.	Every child is entitled to own property as stipulated by law					
21.	Every child must be protected from indecent and inhuman treatment through sexual exploitation, drug abuse, child labour, etc.					
22.	Every child has a right to go to any place of his/her choice without parental interference					
23.	Every child has a right to buy whatever he/she want so long as it is not harmful to his/her life					
24.	Every child has a right to belong to any religion of his/her choice					

SECTION E (Broadcast Journalists' attitude towards Child Right Act in Nigeria)

Instruction: Please read the items carefully and tick (✓) where appropriate

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), Undecided (U)

S/N	Variables	SA	A	D	SD	U
25.	Reporting child right issues does not have any economic advantage that is why I don't give attention to it.					
26.	Some children issues are not newsworthy, hence, does not worth reporting					

27.	Children issues are trivial issues hence, does not worth reporting					
28.	Children should be given attention because they are vulnerable group in the society					
29.	I don't report children issues because it is not my beat.					
30.	I report children issues because their voice needs to be heard.					
31.	I don't report children issues because they are minors.					
32.	Reporting children issues can be tasking and quite involving that is why I avoid it.					
33.	Reporting children issues can be interesting, hence I love reporting the beat					
34.	I avoid reporting children issues because I don't want to go against the law					

SECTION F (Extent to which Broadcast Journalist in South East promote Child Right in Nigeria)

Instruction: Please read the items carefully and tick (√) where appropriate

Key: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD), Undecided (U)

S/N	Variables	SA	A	D	SD	U
35.	I sensitize the public about the principles of Child's Right in Nigeria					
36.	The media I work for give more broadcast time to programmes or issues that promote child right in Nigeria					
37.	I use news and features to report child abuse issues.					
38.	I sensitize the public of the benefits of educating the Nigeria child (especially the girl child).					
39.	Journalists' should construct what is called "deviant" in the society and not merely reflect the work of others who define deviance.					
40.	I don't use pictures of children (minors) when reporting crime or sexually related stories.					
41.	Children are allowed to participate in programmes in the media					

	where I work.					
42.	I monitor the abuse and progress of children in my reporting and follow it to its logical conclusion.					
43.	The government need to set up an implementation mechanism to monitor the domestication of Child Right Act in all the 36 States.					
44.	Journalists should give voice to children in their reportage especially when their right is violated.					
45	I try not to undermine the integrity of the Nigeria child in my reportage.					
46.	I interview children when I report issues that concern them.					