

Reportage Of Climate Change Issues In Nigerian Newspapers

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ABSTRACT: This study is a content analysis of three national Dailies (Nigerian Tribune, Daily Trust and Daily Sun Newspapers) to determine the Reportage of Climate Change Issues for a period of 12 months. The objectives of this study is to determine the extent of coverage of Climate Change Issues, to find out the courses of Climate Change, find out the kind of report being carried on subject matter of Climate Change in Nigeria. This unit of analysis of the study are volume of coverage, while the content categories were classify as: Flooding, Food Security, Earthquake, Landslide, Volcanic Eruption, Oil Spillage, Erosion, Emission, Hurricane, Epidemic, Pollution and Climate news. Sample size for the study was 293. Variables measures include news types, placement, source etc. Data were analysed using both descriptive (Frequency, Percentage) and Inferential (Chi-Square) statistics at $P < 0.05$. It was found that the volume of coverage of issues is poor and that the dominant form of presentation was news stories. It was recommended among others that Reporters should beam their searchlight around Universities and Research Institutions to uncover available knowledge in research finding with regards to coverage of Climate Change Issues as regular communication about it is the first step towards developing coping mechanisms in Nigeria.

Keywords: Climate Change, Newspaper, Disaster. Reportage

INTRODUCTION

Changes in weather conditions as experienced around the world are the greatest challenges confronting our environments in the world today. The increase in global temperatures has continued to generate changes in weather patterns. A rise in sea levels, an increased frequency and intensity of life-threatening weather and what have you. It is worse for people in regions that are particularly at risk, such as Central America. Most countries in Africa are struggling with development and the greater challenge as a result of weather condition has been on food security. This is largely due to high temperature often shift in rain patterns. Food security issues in the continent of Africa have become a great challenge for the people. (Boykoff 2007).

Nigeria, a country in the West African Coast faces similar experiments. In eastern Nigeria, there were very dry winds (harmattan) deep around the months of May and June. The northern part of the country struggles with flood issues around the months of July and August. These has caused failing in crop yield as well as death of livestock especially in the rural areas, where they lived on farming activities and rearing of cattles (Crop and Animal farming). Example of such a disaster situation was in August 2010, causing crop failure, death of livestock and submerging of whole villages as reported by AFP a news agency on August 24, 2010. The report showed that the Nigerian Metrological Agency had forecast low rainfalls, but it came pouring down. Flooding also affected seven other States in northern Nigeria during the period. These has resulted in the displacement of over two million people according to a report by BBC news of September 24, 2010. According to that report, states affected by the flooding include Borno, Sokoto, Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Zamfara, and Kebbi. Local media in Nigeria also reported the 2010 flooding of Lagos and Ogun states in Southwestern Nigeria. The flood according to reports sacked schools in Ajegunle and other parts of the states (Daily Triumph, October 21, 2010).

There was also the issue of oil spilling in the Niger Delta area of Nigeria in the South-South region. One might

remember the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska in 1989. This was reported as the worst case in the history of oil spilling in the Nigeria. It was also reported that the Niger Delta region suffers from oil spilling every year in the last 50 years or more. This is also the reasons for agitations in the region as the region has become one of the most polluted places on earth due to the activities of oil Companies. More than 70 percent of the people of the Niger Delta rely on natural resources. They are fishermen and farmers, The Observer newspaper reported in 2010. In 2011, the UN Environmental Program (UNEP) documented the consequences of oil pollution in Ogoniland. This is one part of the Niger Delta severely damaged by oil spills. According to the UN report, UNEP found that people in Ogoniland have lived with chronic pollution all their lives. They found benzene levels 900 times higher than the World Health Organisation, (WHO) recommendations.

Another major problem in Nigeria is desertification. It has been estimated that due to massive water impoundment and irrigation schemes, Nigeria is losing 0.6 kilometres of land to desertification each year (Odjugo, Peter A, 2010). It was also reported that more than 65 percent of Nigerians lives on nature and its goods. Farming, fisheries, logging and manufacturing are all examples of this. According to a report 70-80 percent of Nigeria's original forests have disappeared through logging, agriculture, citi expansion, expansion of road and building of industry (Adamu A, 2012). These have led to loss of plants and animals that depend on these forests. With expected changes in weather conditions, It is expected that these losses would also increase.

Looking at Climate Change as catastrophic consequences, it is therefore not out of place to say that this indeed has become a core media issue in Nigeria. It is one of the topics that have triggered international events and as a result requires adequate, media coverage. According to Weingart, Engels, and Pansegrau, (2000), "how the mass media cover scientific subjects matters in many ways, whether scientists like it or not. Whatever the subject, media coverage has helped to shape public perception and through it, affected

how science is translated into policy. This is most notably in regard to the environment, new technologies and risks". Mosser (2007) observes that the "need for effective communication, public outreach and education to increase support for policy, collective action and behavior change is ever present, and is perhaps most pressing in the context of anthropogenic climate change. The challenges associated with communicating climate change in order to facilitate societal response are enormous". Sampei and Aoyagi-Utsui, (2009) similarly argue that "due to their crucial role in contemporary society and their influence on people's perceptions of climate change issues, the media have emerged as an important setting for the reconstruction of environmental discourses". This informed reasons to examine the portrayals of climate change among three selected Nigerian newspapers.

Aims and Objectives of the Research

The following objectives have been reached for the study.

1. The extent to which Nigerian newspapers report issues of climate change.
2. What the Nigerian newspapers mostly report as the cause(s) of climate change.
3. The kind of reports Nigerian newspapers carry as matters or issues of climate change

Research Questions

This study also formulated the following questions to guide the research.

1. To what extent do Nigerian newspapers report issues of climate change?
2. What do the Nigerian newspapers report as the causes of climate change?
3. What kind of reports do Nigerian newspapers carry as matters or issues of climate change?

Statement of Research Problem

Every research has a statement and these are informed by the problem or problems the researcher is working to unravel. Therefore, given the central place of the media in the reconstruction of climate change discourses, there have been political and economic interests that have long tried to influence media reportage of climate change. These imbalances have affected public's understanding and perception, Sampei and Aoyagi-Utsui, (2009). There are many views that are portrayed in the mass media that undermine climate change mitigation measures. This also introduces skepticism into climate change discourses. Some scholars (Bast, 2010; Idso, Singer and Fred, 2009; Pielke, 2009) viewed that reporting environmental change as an issue with two or more sides introduces diversionary debates, uncertainty and skepticisms into the discourse. This can negatively affect public understanding and government response to climate change issues. There are at least seven theories with regards to climate change issue. Six others opposed to anthropogenic (human-induced) climate change issue, Bast, (2010). This study therefore examines three newspaper reportage to understand how the Nigerian Newspapers have been reporting on climate change issues..

LITERATURE REVIEW

The Nigerian population according to reports in 2020 hits about 206.1 million. Nigeria is expanding and experiencing very fast growth. It was said to be occupying a sizable

portion of the earth's land and water space. As a result of oil discovery in the 60s the country began to face issues of pollution being an oil producing nation. Farming is the major occupation with more 50% of the population depends on it for survival. These mean that Nigeria and Nigerians are bound to affect and be affected by climate change. Nigerian Tribune newspaper in its report (2012) documents that the effects of climate change in Nigeria include flooding of many parts, erosion, and not certain weather conditions as well as continuous incursion of the desert into the northern parts of the country, decline of fishing stocks, disappearance of rare animals from the forests, etc. Also Umeje (2010) observes that the media in Nigeria appear to be relatively aloof in matters of creating awareness on climate change issues. That Nigeria risks the ravages of global challenges posed by climate change is an attested fact. In his assessment, the Nigerian media seem to lag behind in awareness creation and campaign on climate change. Umeje (2010) posit that most Africans are not informed on climate change and that the media have the urgent duty to assume a prominent role in creating awareness on these issues.

The possession of accurate and complete understanding of information on climate change is not a prerequisite for concern (climate change challenge.org (2012)). It agrees that lack of citizen understanding regarding the basics knowledge of climate science exists worldwide. It also points out that the media can play a key role in mitigating the effects of climate change. This happens because media sets agenda in their reports and so affects the relationship on the way people reason and behave. The media helps to close the information gap by enlightening people on environmental issues. The media can also assist people in simplifying the technical language of climate science so that people can interpret and understand it better even the people with basic or average education.

The media in Nigeria plays the basic role of informing the people (Nwabueze (2007)).The media also plays key role in education and entertainment in the society. The way the Media inform is through sending message or dissemination of information on environmental or green issues in the nation and in the global scene. When incidents with great significance to the environment and to the health of people take place in the society, the media expose such incidents and make the public aware of them. However, the basic questions, according to Nwabueze, are – "what is the nature of media coverage of environmental issues in Nigeria? Does the media give adequate coverage to the environment in view of its vital place in human existence? When the media covers environmental issues, what approaches is government adopting in treating environmental news or what type of message or the nature of message or content of the coverage are they passing across? Can the coverage be said to be purposeful and capable of achieving societal change towards ensuring an environmentally sustainable nation?" These questions touch the core of environmental reporting, and this study addresses them from the angle of climate change.

The Koko (Koko is now in the present day Gelita state) waste dump disaster, which occurred in 1987 has triggered some unique media interest in the media space with regards to report on environmental pollution (Nwabueze 2007). It was reported that the disaster occurred as a result of lack of

proper checking at the port when an Italian businessman named Gianfrance Raffaelli, imported some drums containing chemicals into Nigeria. These drums were said to contain toxic wastes. According to the report, the toxic contents of the drums killed 20 of the 100 men who evacuated the drums from the vehicle that brought those drum into the company. Ever since the disaster in Koko, it was recorded that the Nigerian media has picked interest in reporting oil pollution in the Niger Delta as from the 1990s. This stemmed from the pollution awakes the media consciousness as triggered by the Koko incident (Akaeze 2010). This also was said to be a situation which informed the show of interest by the Nigerian Media in reporting climate science on the basis of oddity, magnitude and significance. This is apparently when something extraordinary happens or when an important event on climate change is ongoing. This study therefore, is a test of this alleged tradition to assess newspaper reportage of climate change issues in Nigeria.

Nwabueze (2007) observes that empirical data show that the Nigerian mass media have not been doing well in the coverage of the environment, with specific reference to environmental pollution in the Niger Delta region, which seems to dominate the environmental agenda in Nigeria. Udoudo (in Ashong and Udoudo, 2006) observes that “the media have not done well in the coverage of pollution in the region especially in the area of empathizing with the people and expressing the views of local communities hit by the pollution”. Oso (2006) adds that the mass media give haphazard coverage to environmental issues with mainly spot news reports. The Koko waste dump issue, which took place in 1987 is said to have contributed immensely in reawakening of the attention of the media towards reporting the environment.

The Newswatch Magazine has devoted five editions to the Niger Delta crises. The editons were between September 2008 and December 2009. The includes: September 29, 2008; May 4, 2009; October 19, 2009; November 9, 2009; and December 14, 2009. In its edition (April 10), the paper devoted to the crisis in 2010. Also the May 4, 2009 the Magazines'edition was devoted to the losses, especially in human lives and money. A close look to all these editions revealed that none had a word on the environmental degradation of gas flaring as well as general oil exploration in the Nioger Delta. This even as gas flaring is one of the major contributors to emission with about 30% of the total carbon emissions into Nigeria’s atmosphere (Chigbo, 2008).

The Nigerian press does not give adequate coverage to erosion (Nwabueze (2005)). This informed the study of selected national newspapers in 2004 to buttress the claim. However,It was discovered one of the newspapers did not carry a single story on erosion in the southern zone of the country throughout the year in its publication. The study was carried when some buildings in some communities in Anambra State were being swallowed by erosion as a result of too much rain fall in the community.

The dominant issues on weather condition in a study undertaken by Olatunji (2006) revealed that between 2000 and 2004, the much areas of coverage in the print newspapers in Nigeria were basically on water pollution.

That is sea and ocean pollution. Olatunji (2006) observed that very little or no attention was given to other important environmental problems. He observed that there are unsustainable or deliberate practices of reporting on conservation, flooding and erosion or air pollution. There is also no reports on natural resource exploitation and issues of deforestation and desertification on the print.as well as issues of urban waste management.

Nwosu and Uffoh (2005) while studying on the images of environmental issues and other climate problems in Nigeria discovered that the Nigerian media platforms gave poor quality coverage on environmental issues. This was also buttressed by a study carried out by Galadima (2006) on news magazines. He found out that there are also no inadequate attention given to environmental issues in the reportage.

M.S. Barkindo, former coordinator, special projects, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, was asked in an interview with Newswatch (2008) on why it takes Nigeria such a longtime to be part of the Kyoto Protocol. He replied to that interview was that Nigeria and Africa are lagging behind simply because the environment has not been on the top priority of our national corporate agenda. This replied to such a question is an indictment on the government, the mass media and other institutions peddling the responsibility as such. The replied failed to do more to shore up awareness, capacity and action aimed at combating environmental risks in Nigeria..

Given these facts, It shows that there are needs for urgency in the reportage of climate change issues in Nigeria. The Nigerian media and other stakeholders particularly the government need be in an ‘oversight’ function. This study will seek to fill a gap on the reportage of environmental issues in the Nigerian newspapers. To this end therefore, newspaper angle to the reportage of weather conditions calls for more awareness creation. This study therefore will speak authoritatively on the Nigerian print media coverage of climate change issues in the Nigerian media.

Harmful Environmental Practices and Climate Change in Nigeria

There are many factors that informed Climate issues. These can be from burning of fossil fuels, changes in land use through agriculture and deforestation; carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide (and greenhouse gases) emissions, Climate change challenge.org (2012)..

Climate Change issues affect crops adversely because of extreme weather conditions – drought, windstorms, floods, etc. According to reports, the causes of man-made climate change are carbon emission from industrial processes, which is about 4%. Agriculture amount to 7% of the cause followed by transport, which beams about 21% and fuel that genets electricity, which takes up 65%. There are also the question of altering the land cover by Agriculture affecting the earth’s capacity to absorb or reflect heat and light from the sun. Also, from the human induced carbon dioxide emission there are issues deforestation, desertification, and the use of fossil fuels. While, rain forests absorb 20% of man-made carbon dioxide emission, deforestation is a key contributor to the causes of climate change. It allows 7% extra greenhouse gas

to build up in the atmosphere whereas forests act as carbon sinks. This increased climate change by converting carbon dioxide to carbon during photosynthesis.

The relevance of the above-mentioned facts is that Nigeria, being a contributor to climate change cannot escape the effects of climate change issues. This makes the discourse on climate change issues both at political and media circles of significance and forceful.

Print Media Landscape in Nigeria

The Communications Unit of UNDP Nigeria (Undated) to some extent have traced the history of the Print Media in Nigeria. According to its report, while providing useful information on the history of the print media and the character and slant generally of the media in Nigeria. The report reveals that the first newspaper in Nigeria is the Yoruba, 'Iwe Iroyin'. This newspaper was set up by a British missionary in 1859 to capture the information needed across the southwest region. From the little rather regional newspaper, more news publications were born and owned by government, communities and private persons across the country.

Despite the growth of the newspaper industry today, the Media in Nigeria did not grow out of its regional inclination. Therefore, this study carefully looked at the regional consideration in its selection of newspapers for this study. The Nigerian Tribune, The Sun Newspaper and The Daily Trust were selected for examination. Nigerian Tribune is an Ibadan based newspaper established by the famous nationalist, late Chief Obafemi Awolowo who held from Ekene in Ogun State. Although based in Lagos state former Nigeria's capital and current economic base of the country, The Sun newspaper represents the Southeast region of the Country. The paper was established by Chief Orji Uzor Kalu, a former Governor of Abia State and current Senator in the Nigeria's National Assembly. The paper has a strong bias on reporting business and political news. The Daily Trust expresses the northern agenda. The paper is owned by a group of Northern political block and operates in the nation's capital, Abuja, where it propagates the interest of the Islamic North.

Coverage, Discourse and Framing of Climate Change Issues in the Media

Climate change Issues is an acceptable fact globally as a source of concern to people regardless of their status in the society. The media as a social institution is expected to set an agenda this concern. This is because the mass media play a very key role in transforming the society like other social institutions/ This includes the educational institutions, government agencies, NGOs and CBOs, international organisations, communities, which play a critical role in the discourse of Climate Change issues. Obviously this can be viewed from the perspective of framing, magnifying and generally influencing social cognition which in turn may influence actions and policies relating to climate change positively or negatively.

Climate Change and Public Perception in Nigeria

The Nigerian respondents were not aware that present and future climatic problems have causes beyond Nigeria. The effects of Climate Change issues in Nigeria cannot be

explained outside what can be described as the existing knowledge and beliefs. Most Nigerians due to their religious beliefs see some role in environmental management only within the context of religious belief. They see weather condition as acts of God even when it is human induced. The religious leaders call on people to protect God's creation. The Opinion leaders, government officials and non-governmental organisation representatives, social group leaders and the traditional rulers are better informed about the global causes of environmental issues. Nigeria has three major languages namely: The Hausas, The Igbos and The Yorubas. These languages do not have translation and understanding of climate change terminology.

The media and School is where the People acquire information on climate change. But there is a knowledge deficit in the media which informed the ineffectiveness of audience education in Nigeria. Nigeria focuses mainly on mitigation strategies as opposed to adaptation programmes. To bring solutions to the critical question on climate change issues, both the government and the media must take action to bridge the knowledge gaps.

METHODOLOGY

Study Area

On the map of Africa. The country of the great Black nation called Nigeria is located on the West African Coast. It got its independence from the British on October 1, 1960. Shortly after the Independence, Nigeria discovered Oil in the Niger Delta area. The countries bordering Nigeria are: The Benin Republic in the west, The Republic of Chad and Cameroon in the East, and Niger Republic in the north. It lies south on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean (Country Profile: Nigeria (2011)). With its capital Abuja, Nigeria has been the site of numerous kingdoms and tribal states. There are two major religions in the country, which Christianity and Islam. However, the African traditional religion also has a significant number of followers in the country. The modern state begins in the 19th century, and merging of the southern Nigeria protectorate and Northern Nigeria protectorate in 1914 (The New York Times (2011)). Soon after becoming an independent federation in 1960, the country was plunged into a civil war from 1967 to 1970. It has since alternated between democratically elected civilian governments and military dictatorship. The 2011 presidential elections were viewed as the first to be conducted reasonably freely and fair since the return of democracy in the country on May 29, 1999.

Nigeria is often referred to as the 'Giant of Africa', owing to its large population and economy. The current population of Nigeria stands at 206.1 million (Report 2020). It is said to be the 7th most populous country in the world.

There are over 500 ethnic groups in Nigeria. However, three languages are spoken across the regions which are Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba. Nigeria's economy (GDP) in 2014 became the largest in Africa. The GDP stood at more than 500 dollars and overtook South Africa to become the world's 21st largest economy. The debt – to – GDP ratio is only 11 percent (8 percent below the 2012 ratio). Nigeria is expected to become one of the world's top 20 economies by the year 2050.

The country's oil reserves have played a major role in its growing wealth and influence, Juang, Richard M.(2008). While the country is identified as the emerging regional power in Africa, the World Bank considered Nigeria as the emerging market in Africa. Nigeria is also a member of the MINT group of countries. These countries are widely seen as the globe's next 'BRIC-like' economies. The Country is also listed among the 'next eleven' economies set to become among the biggest in the world. Nigeria is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the African Union, OPEC, and the United Nations among other international organizations.

In July 2009, a riot broke out between the Nigerian Police and an Islamic sect leading to serious crises and violence. This conflict has lingered till now causing huge humanitarian crises in the northeast region of Nigeria. The Nigeria's president, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan in May 2014 claimed that Boko Haram attacks have left at least 12,000 people dead. However, the figure today, under the Buhari Administration is said to be around 38,000 death according to United Nations report (2021). In 2014, the Boko Haram abducted 276 girls in a school in Chibok local government area of Borno state in northeast Nigeria. Following the abduction of 276 school girls in Chibok, neighbouring countries: The Benin Republic, The Republic of Chad, The Republic of Cameroon and Niger Republic joined forces to support Nigeria in the war against Insurgency.

Study Design

This study is conducted to assess the rate of reportage on Climate Change Issues in Nigeria within the period. For this study to be appropriately done, the content analysis method was selected. Content analysis was employed in generation result for this study in that the research is trying to look or rather analyse the Nigerian newspapers.

Study Population

Three widely circulated National newspapers namely: the Nigerian Tribune, Daily Trust and The Sun were carefully selected due to their dominance largely in the South-West, South-East and Northern region of the country for the study. The Newspapers are easily accessible and they appeal to the audience. The Newspapers was also observed to be leaders in coverage of a wide range of topics ranging from politics, health, entertainment, business and sport. The three newspapers are published every day even weekends.

Sample size

A total of 1080 newspapers were speculated as the total sample size for the three newspapers for the period of one year and specifically dealing with issues. This is because Nigeria experience great flooding in 2012.

Sampling technique

The reports on Climate Change searched for from page to page of each paper, and from January, 2012 to December, 2012. The copies of Year 2012 Nigerian Tribune newspapers were retrieved from the Tribune's Library at Tribune's House, Imalefa Lafia, Oke Ado Street, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria while the Sun and Daily Trust newspapers of the same year were obtained from the Regional Bureau Chiefs offices of Daily Trust and The Sun Newspapers respectively.

Instrument of data collection

Content analysis method was used in analyzing the three newspapers to determine: the frequency of Climate Change stories in the selected Nigerian newspapers, the frequency of reportage and areas including the features, Cartoons, News Analysis, Opinions, Editorials, and Stories in the three newspapers. It also observed the prominence given to these stories, the genres or categories to which these stories belong and the sources of the stories.

Unit of analysis

The story categories of Climate Change were examined as: News stories, Editorials, Features, Opinions and Cartoons etc. The frequency of reportage of disaster issues was determined by analyzing the total number of reports on disaster issues in the three selected newspapers. The formula employed is $n/N \times 100/1$, where n = total number of disaster reports and N = total number of papers reviewed.

To determine the prominence or importance given to the stories by the newspapers, the following decisions were made: very important, which means stories are placed at the front pages of the newspapers; important, represents stories that are placed on the third page, centre-spread or back page of the newspapers; and least important represents stories that are written with less attention and, therefore, occupy other pages of the newspapers.

To identify the reportage areas, the following themes were generated: Features, News and Opinions. The sources of stories on Climate Change were classified as: in-house/ internal source, private individual, unidentified sources and news agencies.

Methods of data analysis

Converting data to percentage responses enables the researcher to compare sub group of unequal size meaningfully. (Ifidon and Ifidon, 2007). A simple method of data analysis was used in this study. This is done to aids understating and it series. The figures were tabulated and converted to percentages. The responses were analyzed according to their relevance to the research questions.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Content analysis is a practice of measuring and analyzing communication that has taken place, and from it make inferences (Ogunbameru, 2000). This study therefore, spans a 12 months period between January, 2012 and December, 2012. Reporting Climate Change, particularly newspapers in Nigeria were reviewed for each month in the three selected national dailies namely: Nigerian Tribune, The Sun Newspaper and Daily Trust. Apart from quantitatively ascertaining how newspapers handled Climate Change issues in Nigeria, the mode of reporting adopted in presenting this information was also reviewed. Strategies adopted were content definition, content categorization and counting or qualification (Farinde, 2004). In other words, articles considered relevant were identify, classified and enumerated using percentages and frequency counts, and the results were presented with tables as shown below.

Computation

Table 1. Shows the number of reports carried on monthly basis in the three selected national dailies on Climate Change issues in Nigeria from 1st January 2012 to 31st December 2012

No.	News Paper	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun	Jul	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Tol.
1	Trib.	12	14	11	14	9	13	13	11	10	11	13	13	144
2	Sun	14	7	7	9	11	15	8	6	17	3	5	12	114
3	Trust	9	6	15	10	7	4	9	7	5	7	11	10	100
4	Tol.	35	27	33	33	27	32	30	24	32	21	29	35	358

Figure 1. Monthly breakdown of number of reports on Climate Change issues in the Nigerian newspapers.

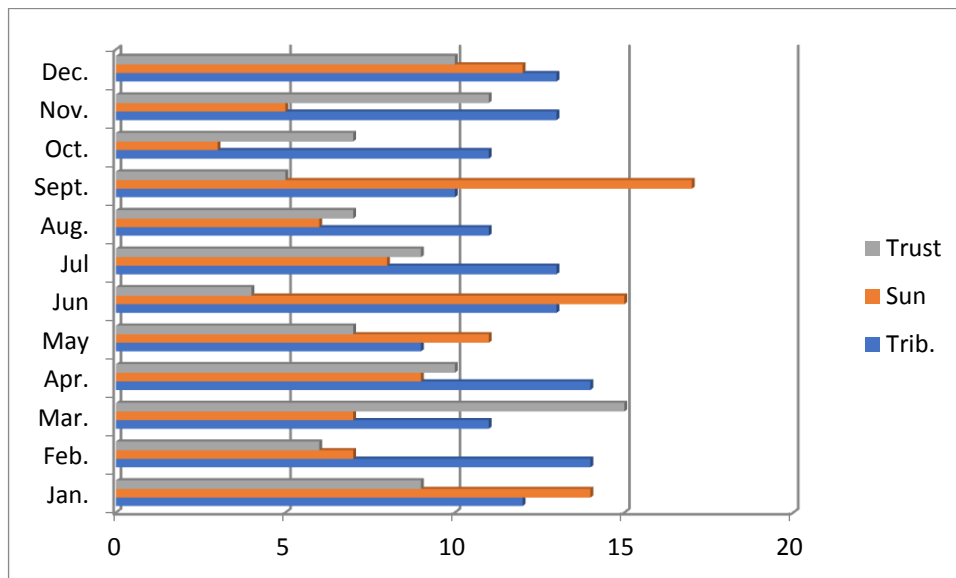


Figure 1 shows that in September, 2012, The Sun newspaper has the highest total coverage for climate change items with 17 reports, followed by the Daily Trust with 15 reports in March, 2012 while the Nigerian Tribune has 14 reports in February and April, 2012 respectively.

Table 2. Frequency of reports on Climate Change issues in Nigerian newspapers from the three selected national dailies from January, 2012 – December, 2012

Number	Newspaper	Frequency	Percentage
1	Nigerian Tribune	144	40
2	Daily Sun	114	32
3	Daily Trust	100	28
4		358	100

Table 2 above shows that from 1st January, 2012 to 31st December, 2012, the three selected dailies covered a total of 358 items on climate change in the 1080 issues sampled. As can be seen in the table, the Nigerian Tribune provided more reports on climate change with 144 (40%) of the reports. The Sun had 114 reports equivalent to 32% and The Daily Trust followed with 100 (28%) respectively. It is evident from Table 1 that the newspapers gave a basis for awareness on climate change issues to their readers. A further break down of the data also shows some difference on month by month basis as can be seen on Figure 1.

Figure 2. Shows the frequency of reports on Climate Change in Nigerian newspapers.

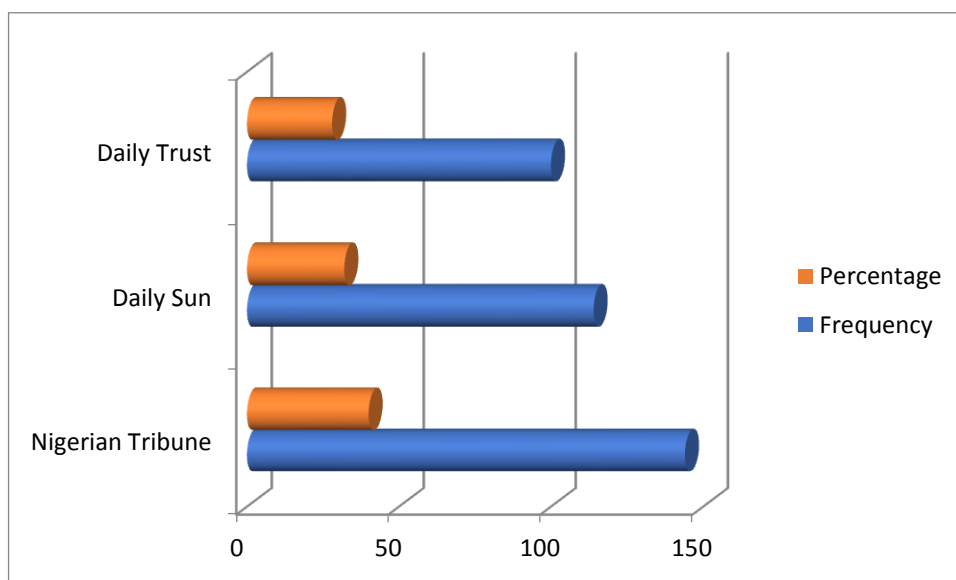


Figure 2. Shows the frequency of reports on Climate Change in Nigeria with the Nigerian Tribune having a total of 144 items representing 40% of reportage in 2012, followed by the Sun newspaper with 114 items representing 32% of reportage on climate change in 2012 while the Daily Trust followed with 100 items representing 28% of reportage on climate change in 2012.

Table 3. Issues in the newspaper report on climate change as categories.

No.	Newspaper	Story	Feature	Int.	Opinion	Edit.	Cartoon	Others	Total
1	Tribune	44	27	30	20	11	4	8	144
2	Sun	31	18	22	16	14	1	12	114
3	Trust	37	24	13	9	8	6	3	100
4	Total	112 (31.3%)	69 (19.3%)	65 (18.2%)	45 (12.6%)	33 (9.2%)	11 (3.1%)	23 (6.4%)	358 (100%)

From Table 3, it can be observed that news stories is dominant on climate change issue in the Nigerian newspapers with 112 news items representing (31.3%) of reportage of climate change, Features Article has 69 representing (19.3%), 65 Interviews on climate change issues representing (18.2%), Opinions has 45 representing (12.6%), Editorial has 33 editorials representing (9.2%), 11 Cartoons on climate change issues representing (3.1%) while others issues that has to do with climate change has 23 representing (6.4%).

Figure 3. Shows the different categories of issues on climate change reports in the Nigerian newspaper

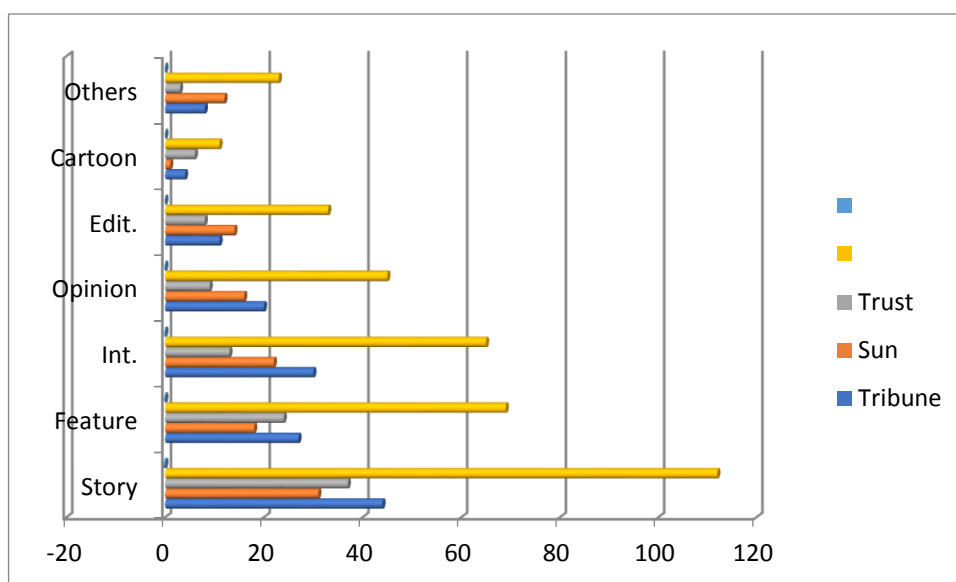


Figure 3. Shows the different categories of issues on Climate Change in Nigerian newspapers with the Nigerian Tribune having a total of 144 items representing 40% of reportage and leading in stories, Featuring articles, interview and opinions, followed by the Sun newspaper with 114 items representing 32% of reportage on climate change and leading Editorial and

others, while the Daily Trust followed with 100 items representing 28% of reportage on climate change and leading in Cartoon.

Table 4. Frames of newspaper report on Climate Change

Number	Newspaper	Adaptation	Mitigation	Neutral	Total
1	Tribune	45(18.6%)	80(22.3%)	19(5.3%)	144(40%)
2	Sun	34(9.5%)	67(18.7%)	13(3.6%)	114(32%)
3	Trust	21(5.9%)	69(19.3%)	10(2.8%)	100(28%)
4	Total	100(27.9%)	216(60.3)	42(11.7%)	358(100%)

Table 4. shows that, the dominant frame of climate change in Nigerian newspapers is mitigation. The frame of climate change mitigation accounted for a little more than half of the coding for framing i.e.216 (60.3%). In the newspaper items, mitigation is framed by using such terms as ‘alternative energy’, ‘mitigate/mitigation,’ ‘reduce the effects’, ‘carbon reduction/capture’ ‘carbon efficiency’ ‘emission reduction’, ‘carbon trading’, etc. The frame of mitigation in Nigerian newspapers was followed by the adaptation, which accounted for 100(27.8%) items and the last frame, neutral frame, accounted for 42(11.7%) items respectively. In the neutral frame, the newspaper items serve the main purpose of enlightenment through providing information about the climate change issues. The selected newspapers also framed adaptation with terms such as ‘disaster preparedness’, ‘adjusting to climate change’ ‘adaptation’, ‘adapt to climate change’, ‘cope with changes occasioned by climate change’, etc.

Discussion of Findings

The Frequency of Reporting Climate Change Issues in Nigerian Newspapers

As shown earlier, Figure 2 highlights some convincing facts about the level of environmental issues being reported in Nigerian newspapers as fluctuates from time to time. Reasons for this cyclical pattern of newspaper reportage of environmental or climate change spawned the ‘issue attention cycle’ model by Downs (1972); ‘public arena’ model (Boykoff & Boykoff, 2007) and ‘circuit of culture’ model (Cavalho & Burgess, 2005). The data show that the three newspapers: Tribune, Sun and Daily Trust provided a total sum of 358 items on climate change within the 12 months study period i.e. January to December, 2012. With this understanding, it can be said that climate change issues can as well be regarded as being on the threshold of public agenda. That is to say that, issues of Climate Change is still trying to gain momentum so as to reach a level where it may cause a rise in public concern and subsequent action. There is rather less coverage of weather conditions or climate change issues in newspapers published in South America and Africa compared to Europe, North America and Asia, according to Boykoff (2009) . This revelation indicated that there are critical information gap in reporting environmental or Climate Change issues.

The Dominant Issues in Newspaper Reportage of Climate Change in Nigeria

The data presented in Table 3 show that the most dominant issue with 31.3% of the coded reports on climate change in Nigerian newspapers pertained to different stories on climate change. This is an indicator that newspaper reporting of climate change in Nigeria is predominantly about funds, governance and related matters. Natural or bio-physical

climate change occurrences such as heat waves, floods, ocean surges, desertification, drought, etc are less frequently reported. Socio-cultural issues in relation to climate change as well as issues relating to climate science are less reported in the Nigerian newspapers. With regard to the imbalance of coverage, Shanahan (2000) argues that less coverage of science in climate change are largely because science is no longer the basis for interest on the issue as much as politics, economics and international relations are. While it is important to report climate change issues, newspaper readers in Nigeria could have been served better if the issues are relatively balanced as climate change hinges more on what people already know. Knowing what to do in relation to floods, droughts, heat waves, sea level rise, etc. is an important areas to riased awareness on for newspaper audiences in order to help people keep abreast and help them in avoiding impacts as well as initiating actions in mitigation or adaptation.

Frames with Which Newspapers Report Climate Change in Nigeria

Data presented on Table 4 show that 216(60.3%) of the coded newspaper reports on climate change were framed in terms of mitigation. While adaptation frame got 100(27.9%), the rest of the reports were neutral being mainly informative and neither emphasising adaptation nor mitigation. Nigeria is located in the southern hemisphere which is experiencing more climate change effects for which adaptation has been seen to be the first line of response (NEST, 2001; NEST/GCSI, 2004). Nigerian newspapers largely framed climate change in terms of mitigation. It has been argued that mitigation is largely the business of developed countries that have historic responsibility (due to their earlier and advanced level of industrialisation. They are the largest carbon emitters and therefore have the capacity to shoulder more of the burden of climate change solution while developing countries should receive assistance (Billet, 2009). Also, adaptation to climate change is considered relevant for developing countries. This according to (McCarthy, 2001) is where societies are already struggling to meet the challenges posed by existing climate variability and are, therefore, expected to be the most adversely affected by climate change issues. Looking at the context of the Nigerian society, climate change framing in Nigerian newspapers can be said to be composed with unintentional frames. Unintentional frames, according to Konig (2004) are not consciously manufactured but unconsciously adopted in the course of communication. Therefore, journalists writing for Nigerian newspaper may not have fully appreciated the complexity and dimension of climate change for them to frame the issue in terms of mitigation rather than adaptation which should have been the first line of response.

CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATION AND LIMITATION

Conclusion

This study concludes after thorough investigation across the three selected newspapers that the newspapers reported climate change significantly. However, they do not include the whole context within its coverage. It was also observed that Climate change was occurring in clear view for the readers. It reveals news items were the dominant genre, and focused on new issues without proper follow up on former climate change reports in context. It also observed that Climate change reporting was event-based. It appears that captions or Choice of topics are not planned. The Nigerian newspapers reports climate change issues as mostly human-induced.

Recommendations

This study, however, recommended that:

1. As a specialist area. Newspapers should train journalists in the area reporting Climate Change issues so as to be able to see beyond the context and also connect previous reporting with new events effectively.
2. More attention should be paid to Climate change reporting affects the lives, work, and livelihood of people. The Nigerians media should give more attention to educating the public on environmental issues as this would help the people understand and make early preparation in the event of such occurrences.
3. Journalists particularly those who reports on Climate Change issues should recourse to local, national and regional sources such as community people, government officials, experts, books, reports and other publications to gain more knowledge to factor on their reportage

Limitation

This study attempts to look at how the Nigerian newspapers reports on Climate change issues. It looks at the 2012 flood, which has been the centre of discussion about Climate Change Issues in Nigeria. The study therefore, is restricted to the selected newspapers, specifically, the nationally circulated newspapers. The three privately owned newspapers: The SUN, Nigerian Tribune and Daily Trust was used to attempt to arrive at answers to the study with focus on Reporting Climate Change Issues in Nigerian newspapers,

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