

THE MASS MEDIA AND ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING IN NIGERIA: AN APPRAISAL

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Abstract

The main purpose of this study is to examine the issues of environmental journalism in Nigeria. Two factor theory, Maslow hierarchy theory and Agenda setting theory served as the theoretical framework of the study. A census of 200 registered journalists in Enugu State was studied. The researcher adopted a survey method using questionnaires as instrument for data collection. This study asked among other questions; to what extent do media houses give room for environmental friendly news? The findings of the study revealed that 60 % valid percentage accepted that their editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news to a moderate extent. Therefore the researcher recommended that Media houses should go beyond having philosophies that are environmental friendly, rather environmental reporting should be created for specialized reporters.

Keywords: Mass Media, Environment and Environmental Reporting

Introduction

In Nigeria various geo political zones have different forms of environmental challenges. According to UN environmental program (UNEP, 2011) people in Ogoni land have lived all their lives with chronic pollution. Apart from gas flaring polluting the air Niger Delta of south south Nigeria has been experiencing oil spillage polluting their water resource. More than 70 percent of the people of Niger Delta rely on natural resources. They are fisher men and farmers. This occasioned the documentation by UNEP 2011 which stated that the consequences of oil pollution in Ogoni land, one part of the Delta severely damaged by spills. Lagos in South West



Nigeria was recently hit by torrential downpour and thunder storms that has left many parts of the city flooded (Busarri & Osman, 2017). According to Focus Nigeria (2016) the south east Nigeria has the problem of erosion menace which has not been solved and it cannot be solved rather managed to the extent that erosion sites will no longer force people to abandon their homes and farm lands. In Anambra alone there are 550 very active and 1000 erosion sites identified by Anambra state commissioner which far exceeds the present 62 critical sites that attention is being focused on. In Northern Nigeria the biggest environmental challenge is desert encroachment, however recently flooding was recorded in Benue state and some other northern state. According to Terhile (2017), the rainfall pattern, climate variation, deforestation, overgrazing, urbanization has contributed to the desertification encroachment in 15 northernmost states of Nigeria.

Confronted by these challenges, Nigeria, more than ever before, requires the services of environmental reporters. Environmental journalists are expected to be advocates for changes to improve the quality of the planet. They should educate people about the serious state of the environment and use the power of the news media to bring about changes to improve the quality of the air, water, wildlife and natural resources.

Trying to convince people about the importance of protecting the environment sometimes can be difficult. Many people are simply not interested; society tends to assume that things like land, trees, plants, animals, and water resources are always available. Overuse or abuse of resources is not, most of the times, an important issue. But catching audiences' attention is not the only hard thing environmental journalists have to face. Writing about the environment as a core issue for society sets numerous challenges for journalists. The recognition of these challenges and a solution to them will impact the creation of a collective dialogue and deliberation on environmental issues that are of broad public concern.

Statement of Problem

Among the issues which the media could report in our contemporary society is the environment, the manner in which they do this would be fundamental to the extent the society survives the various forms of risks which human interaction with the environment entails. Stated differently the Media's capacity in providing information and analysis in regard to all aspects of the environment would remain critical to human survival (Emmanuel, 2014). Therefore this paper examined the issues of environmental journalism in Nigeria.

Objective of study

This study sought to:

1. Find out how knowledgeable journalists are on the rudiments of environmental reporting.

2. Identify the challenges journalists encounter in the reportage of environmental issues.
3. Ascertain the extent to which media houses give room to environmental friendly news.
4. Identify the factors affecting the practice of environmental reporting in Nigeria.

Research questions

This study sought to answer the following questions

1. What is the extent to which journalists are knowledgeable on the rudiments of environmental reporting?
2. What are the challenges journalists encounters in the reportage of environmental issues?
3. What is the extent to which media houses give room to environmental friendly news?
4. What are the factors affecting the practice of environmental reporting in Nigeria?

Conceptual Review

Journalism

The word "Journalism" is derived from the word "Journal" which means a daily register or a diary – a book containing each day's business or transactions. This includes newspapers no matter whether they are published daily or weekly. It also means a magazine to whatever section of the audience it caters to. Journalism means writing for newspapers or magazines. It is the communication of information through writing in periodicals and newspapers. The people have an inborn desire to know what's novel. This curiosity is satisfied by the journalists through their writing in the newspapers and journals on current affairs and news. Journalism is the occupation of reporting, writing, editing, photographing or broadcasting news or of conducting any news organization as a business (*Umar Farooq 2015*). Journalism means writing in journals, newspapers, magazines, or pamphlet. Journalism also extends to scripting (probably in a broadcast station) about something new or newsworthy.

Environment

The word Environment is derived from the French word “Environ” which means “surrounding”. Our surrounding includes biotic factors like human beings, Plants, animals, microbes, etc and abiotic factors such as light, air, water, soil, etc.



The environment is a system consisting of natural and artificial elements that are interrelated and which are modified by human action. It's the environment that affects the way of life of the society, including natural, social and cultural values that exist in a place and time. This is to say that Living beings, soil, water, air, physical objects made by man and the symbolic elements (as traditions, for example) make up the environment ([Página Principal](#), 2013). Every elements that affects our daily activity either natural (water, air, soil, trees,) and artificial (buildings, cars e.t,c) elements are all part of our environment. This means what humans create and recreate that eventually affects the society and the way we live our lives positively or negatively makes up the environment.

According to new age publishers (2017) environment is sum total of water, air and land interrelationships among themselves and also with the human being, other living organisms and property. Environment also means surrounding and everything that affect an organism during its lifetime. Therefore our environment deals with the air we breathe, the water we drink, the soil we till and so much more of what we make out of it.

Environment could be said to cover “all those elements which in their complex inter-relationships form the framework, setting and living conditions for mankind, by their very existence or by virtue of their impact“.5 Another suggestion is taken from the New Zealand Environment Act of 1986, where the environment is defined as including: ecosystems and their constituent parts, all natural and physical resources, the social, economic, aesthetic and cultural conditions which affect the environment or which are affected by changes to the environment (Marie-Louise Larsson, 2009).

Kumarasamy (2004) stated that environments are classified into the following components:

Hydrosphere: Hydrosphere includes all water bodies such as lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and ocean etc. Hydrosphere functions in a cyclic nature, which is termed as hydrological cycle or water cycle.

Lithosphere: Lithosphere means the mantle of rocks constituting the earth's crust. The earth is a cold spherical solid planet of the solar system, which spins in its axis and revolves around the sun at a certain constant distance .Lithosphere mainly, contains soil, earth rocks, mountain etc. Lithosphere is divided into three layers- crusts, mantle and core (outer and inner).

Atmosphere: The cover of the air, that envelopes the earth is known as the atmosphere. Atmosphere is a thin layer which contains gases like oxygen, carbon dioxide etc. and which protects the solid earth and human beings from the harmful radiations of the sun.



Biosphere: It is otherwise known as the life layer, it refers to all organisms on the earth's surface and their interaction with water and air. It consists of plants, animals and micro-organisms, ranging from the tiniest microscopic organism to the largest whales in the sea

Environmental journalism

Environmental journalism has its roots in nature writing, a genre with a long history starting with the early explorers and leading to prominent thinkers of the past few centuries such as Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, and Aldo Leopold. Nature writing focuses on personal observations of nature and the author's relationship to the natural world. Environmental journalism branched off in the 1960s, when Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* alerted people to dire problems in the environment. Environmental journalism seeks to raise awareness about environmental problems and issues and to influence policy and action to resolve them. Environmental journalism reports on events, trends, and issues associated with the environment. Its subject is the planet's natural systems (plants, animals, habitats, ecosystems, atmosphere, water, climate, etc.) and the many ways in which humans interact with, affect, and depend on these systems (National Wildlife Federation, 2017).

According to Roberts David (2013) Environmental journalism has been facing major challenges which is the fact that journalism is dying and being reborn at the same time; it's grinding up lots of traditional journalists in the gears. Environmental journalism, as traditionally practiced, has been [particularly hard hit](#). Environmental journalism is boring and predictable for instance, "Creature/area threatened by pollutant/industry" is a story everyone's seen before a million times and it can be easily predicted. Another major issue is Climate change which has scrambled the term "environmental" across all sorts of domains, including activism, academia, and media. Climate change was framed as an environmental story, about the struggles of environmentalists, covered by environmental journalists, but Climate change is about rapidly accelerating changes in the substrate of modern civilization, the weather patterns and sea levels that have held relatively steady throughout all advanced human development. By its nature, it affects everything that rests on that substrate: agriculture, land use, transportation, energy, politics, behavior (everything). He went further to explain that Climate change is not a story, but a background condition for *all future stories*. The idea that it should or could be adequately covered by a subset of "environmental journalists" was always an insane fiction.

According to handbook on environmental journalism (2004) environmental journalism includes;

- Air Pollution



- Biodiversity
- Eco System
- Environmental Disasters
- Environmental Economics
- Environmental education
- Environmental Ethics
- Environmental Legislation and Environmental policy
- Forest
- Global warming and climate change
- Ground pollution
- Groundwater pollution
- Habit conservation

Empirical review

Muyiwa Popoola (2014) carried out a study titled Content and Hermeneutical Analysis of Selected Newspapers' Reportage of Environmental Issues in Nigeria. The study was carried out to investigate the reportage of environmental issues in Nigeria by selected newspapers. The study adopted content analysis method of mass communication research and dialectical hermeneutics method of critical-cultural research in analyzing sampled editions of selected newspapers. The newspapers that were selected for the study were nationally circulated and they were Daily Trust, Guardian, Punch and This Day. The study that the selected newspapers reported environmental issues in Nigeria considerably, and erosion and flood related matters received the highest reportage of all the environmental issues. It is not surprising that erosion/flood was considered most important by the selected newspapers within the period of study, given the amount of global attention on the environmental issue of erosion and flood. Also, the selected newspapers mostly used feature stories to report on the environmental issues. Thus, the selected newspapers were able to describe the environmental issues extensively and put them (the issues) in perspectives that were germane to understanding of the issues by the readers. It was also discovered that the newspapers devoted significant space to the reportage of the environmental issues, by measure of length and paragraphs of the stories. However, the selected newspapers did not give the issues considerable and enough prominence, by measure of front page and back page placements and big headline point sizes. The study concludes that the selected newspapers were socially responsible in their reportage of the environmental issues. It is recommended that the media in Nigeria should pay



more attention to environmental issues. The print media, most particularly newspaper houses should set more agenda for public discussion in respect of environmental issues in Nigeria by giving more prominence by way of placements of stories on environmental matters, on front page and other premium pages.

In another related study by Uzochuwku, C.E, Ekwugha, P.U, Marion, E.N (2014) titled *Media Coverage of the Environment in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects* discusses the challenges and prospects of Nigerian media's coverage of the environment observes that as an aspect of science reporting, environmental reporting is characterized by inherent technicalities which may be a challenge to the journalist. The paper highlights factors that militate against environmental journalism to include unfavourable editorial philosophy, poor availability of human and material resources as well as ethical problems. The paper recommends that for a better future for environmental coverage in the Nigerian media, the stakeholders should work towards human resources development, technical cooperation and budgeting in favour of environmental reporting

In another study titled *Nigerian newspaper reportage of climate change and its influence on public knowledge of climate change, 2009-2010* by Ukonu in (2012) assessed Nigerian newspaper reportage of climate change and its influence on public knowledge of climate change. The research work therefore sought to ascertain the extent and quality of reportage of climate change as well as the specific ways in which Nigerian newspaper reportage of climate change had influenced public knowledge of the subject matter. The research methods used were content analysis, survey and interview. The Guardian, Daily Sun, ThisDay, and Vanguard newspapers were content analysed, while Abuja, Enugu, Ikeja and Port Harcourt were areas of study for the survey. Results showed that the newspapers studied gave significant attention to issues on climate change. News stories constituted 83% of stories analysed. The newspapers mainly portrayed climate change as human-induced. Thus, stories fuelling uncertainty about climate change were not very visible in the newspapers. The newspapers portrayed the Nigerian public as believing in the truth of climate change but inaccurately linked it to changes in weather patterns. Nigeria was reported as dependent on foreign aid to fight climate change. Public knowledge of climate change was not significantly influenced by newspaper reportage of climate change. This study recommended that Nigerian newspapers should use lots of non-news stories in reporting climate change to enable them handle more analysis needed to portray the important issues in climate change solutions.

Another related study by Jahnnabi Das, Wendy Bacon and Akhteruz Zaman (2009) titled *Covering the environmental issues and global warming in Delta land: A study of three newspapers* explored the coverage of environmental issues in the daily newspapers of Bangladesh, a South-Asian country facing the onslaught of global



warming because of its low-lying deltaic plains and overpopulation. The results are based on an examination of the content of environmental coverage in three national daily newspapers (two Bangla and one English language) during June 2007. Drawing on field theory and analytical frames from journalism studies, this study examines the principles of journalistic practices as revealed by the content of these publications. The findings indicate that environmental journalism is a strong subfield in Bangladesh's media, which constructs its own veracity in ways that reflect the social, economic and political contexts of each publication. Based on this small study, the authors conclude that environmental journalists in Bangladesh adopt approaches to sourcing and causation which enable them, in alliance with non-government organisations, to pursue their aim of actively intervening in the field of government policy of Bangladesh, both in international and local spheres.

Cheng Rong (2009) in a paper titled *Newspaper Coverage of Environmental Problems in China: An Analysis of Three Chinese Newspapers* sought to find out how Chinese journalists covers environmental problems in china. Using content analysis, findings reveals that geography affects Party newspapers' environmental coverage. This study finds out that People's Daily pays more attention to environmental problems at the national and international level, and on an average provides similar coverage of different provinces and special districts in China. But Beijing Daily focuses more on the Beijing area, with 92% of all its environmental articles during late 2001 to early 2007 focusing on Beijing region. The researcher therefore concluded that Party newspapers prefer to portray environmental problems and issues from a positive perspective, stressing improvement already achieved and measures taken by the government to deal with the problems. In contrast, the non-Party newspaper tends to portray environmental problems from a more critical perspective, emphasizing the environmental damage done to citizens. The researcher recommended that China's media coverage of specific environmental problems, comparing Party papers with non-Party papers, may provide insight into the Chinese Communist Party's attitude towards specific kinds of environmental problems.

Maxwell T. Boykoff (2009) in a study titled *We Speak for the Trees: Media Reporting on the Environment* sought to find out how the media report environmental issues. Using the empirical analysis the study revealed that media coverage of the environment has contributed to critical misperceptions, misleading debates, and divergent understandings, which are detrimental to efforts that seek to enlarge rather than constrict the spectrum of possibility for appropriate responses to various environmental challenges. The researcher concludes that a persistent challenge in media portrayals of the environment has been the propensity to treat many distinct environmental processes as one, and this highlights conflicts and debates in places where complexities and convergent agreement in science and policy may actually reside. The researcher therefore recommended that Fairness, accuracy, and precision



in media reporting remain critical in environmental journalism.

Theoretical framework

This study hinges on the two factor theory, Maslow hierarchy theory and Agenda Setting theory.

The two factor theory or the motivator hygiene was propounded in 1959 by Frederick Herzberg, a behavioral scientist According to Herzberg, there are some job factors that result in satisfaction while there are other job factors that prevent dissatisfaction. According to Herzberg, the opposite of “Satisfaction” is “No satisfaction” and the opposite of “Dissatisfaction” is “No Dissatisfaction”.

Herzberg classified these job factors into two categories-

- a. **Hygiene factors-** Hygiene factors are those job factors which are essential for existence of motivation at workplace. These do not lead to positive satisfaction for long-term. But if these factors are absent / if these factors are non-existent at workplace, then they lead to dissatisfaction. In other words, hygiene factors are those factors which when adequate/reasonable in a job, pacify the employees and do not make them dissatisfied. These factors are extrinsic to work. Hygiene factors are also called as **dissatisfies or maintenance factors** as they are required to avoid dissatisfaction. These factors describe the job environment/scenario. The hygiene factors symbolized the physiological needs which the individuals wanted and expected to be fulfilled. Hygiene factors include:

Response	Frequency	percentage
Female	92	46%
Male	108	54%
Total	200	100%

From the gender distribution of the respondents on table 1 above, reflects that 92 of the respondents are men representing 46% and 108 of the respondents are women representing 54%.

This implies that the majority of the respondents are within the female gender, signifying that they constitute the vast population and the active aspect of the respondents from the field.



Table 2: response according to education qualification

Response	Frequency	Percentage
WASSCE/SSCE	-	-
OND/ND/HND	-	-
First degree	132	66
Maters and above	68	34
Total	200	100%

From the level of education distribution of the respondents on table 2 above, reflects that none of WASSCE/SSCE, OND/ND/HND, 132 respondents representing 66% valid percentage are first degree holders and 68 respondents representing 34% valid percentage are masters holders and above.

This implies that majority of the respondents which is 66% have a first degree level of education.

Table 3: Duration of practice

Response	Frequency	Percentage
1-5	48	24%
6-10	100	50%
11-15	36	18%
11 and above	16	8%
Total	200	100%

From the age bracket distribution of the respondents on table 3 above, reflects 48 respondents representing 24 % valid percentage have worked for the duration of 1-5, 100 respondents representing 50% valid percentage have worked for the duration of 6-10, 36 respondents representing 18% valid percentage have worked for the duration of 11-15, 16 respondents representing 8% valid percentage have worked for the duration of 11 and above.

This implies that the majority of the respondents are within the duration of 6-10, implying that they constitute the youths population and vibrant aspect of the respondents

Analysis of Data Survey

What is the extent to which journalists are knowledgeable on the rudiments of environmental reporting?

Table 4: Are you aware of the basics of environmental reporting

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	188	94%
No	12	6%
Can't say	-	-
Total	200	100%

From the distribution of the respondents on table 4 above, reflects that 188 respondents representing 94% valid percentage said yes to been aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting, 12 respondents representing 6% valid percentage said No to been aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting, while 0 respondents representing 0% valid percentage said can't say to been aware of the codes for professional journalism practice.

This implies that majority of the respondents which is 94% are aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting which indicates that the awareness level is quite on the high side.

Table 5: If yes to what extent

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Large	36	18%
Moderate	124	62%
Minimal	16	8%
Very Large	16	8%
No Idea	8	4%
Total	200	100%

From the distribution of the respondents on table 5 above, reflects that 36 respondents representing 18% valid percentage said they are aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting to a large extent, 124 respondents representing 62 % valid percentage said they are aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting to a moderate extent, 16 respondents representing 8% valid percentage said they are aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting to a minimal extent, 16 respondents representing 8% valid percentage said they are aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting to a very large extent, 8 respondents representing 4% valid percentage said they have no idea on the level of awareness on the rudiments of

environmental reportage.

This implies that majority of the respondents which is 62% are aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting in a moderate extent.

Table 6: What basics of environmental reportage are you aware of?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Climate Change	40	20%
Climate System	8	4%
Deforestation	20	10%
Global Warming	48	24%
All of the Above	80	40%
None of the Above	4	2%
Total	200	100%

From the distribution of the respondents on table 6 above, reflects that 40 respondents representing 20% valid percentage stated that climate change is the rudiments of environmental reporting that they aware of, 8 respondents representing 4% valid percentage stated that climate system is the rudiments of environmental reporting that they aware of, 20 respondents representing 12% valid percentage stated that Deforestation is the rudiments of environmental reporting that they aware of , 80 respondents representing 40% stated that they know all the rudiments of environmental reportage, while 4 respondents representing 2% valid percentage stated that they do not know any rudiments of environmental reportage.

This implies that majority of the respondents which is 40% are aware of the rudiments of environmental reportage.

Research Question two: What are the challenges journalists encounter in the reportage of environmental issues?

Table 7: Do you report on environmental issues?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	164	82%
No	36	18%
Total	200	100%

From the distribution of the respondents on table 7 above, reflects that 164 respondents representing 82%valid percentage said yes that they report environmental issues, 36 respondents representing 18% valid percentage said that they do not report environmental issues.

This implies that majority of the respondents which is 82% said yes that they report environmental issues.

Table 8: If yes what challenges do you face?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of material resources	60	30%
Lack of finance	68	34%
Lack of technology know how	48	24%
Can't say	24	12%
Total	200	100%

From the distribution of the respondents on table 8 above, reflects that 60 respondents representing 30% valid percentage said that the major challenge is lack of material resources, 68 respondents representing 34% valid percentage said that the major challenge is lack of finance, 48 respondents representing 24% said that the major challenge is lack of technology know how while 24 respondents representing 12% can't say the challenges faced during environmental reporting.

This implies that lack of finance which amounted to 34% is the major challenge by environmental reporters.

Research question three: What is the extent to which media houses give room to environmental friendly news?

Table 9: Does your editorial philosophy give room for environmental friendly news?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	184	92%
No	4	2%
Can't say	12	6%
Total	200	100%

From the distribution of the respondents on table 9 above, reflects that 184 respondents representing 92% valid percentage said yes that their editorial philosophy give room for environmental friendly news, 4 respondents representing 2% valid percentage said that their editorial philosophy does not give room for environmental friendly news while 12 respondents representing 6% said that they can't say if their editorial philosophy give room for environmental friendly news.

This implies that majority of the respondents which is 92% said yes that their

editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news.

Table 10: If yes to what extent

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Large	40	20%
Moderate	120	60%
Minimal	28	14%
Very Large Extent	8	4%
No idea	4	2%
Total	200	100%

From the distribution of the respondents on table 10 above, reflects that 4-respondents representing 20% valid percentage said that their editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news to a large extent, 120 respondents representing 60 % valid percentage said that their editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news to a moderate extent, 28 respondents representing 14% valid percentage said that their editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news to a minimal extent, 8 respondents representing 4% valid percentage said that their editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news very large extent, 4 respondents representing 2% valid percentage said that they have no if their editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news.

This implies that majority of the respondents which is 60% editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news in a moderate extent.

Research question four: What are the factors affecting the practice of environmental reporting in Nigeria?

Table 11: What factors effect environmental reporting in Nigeria?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Finance	20	10%
Human Resources	44	22%
Technology	48	24%
Negligence by the government and media houses	88	44%
Total	200	100%

From the distribution of the respondents on table 4 above, reflects that 20 respondents representing 10% valid percentage stated that the factor that affects environmental reporting is finance, 44 respondents representing 22% valid percentage stated that the factor that affects environmental reporting is human resources, 48 respondents representing 24% valid percentage stated that the factor

that affects environmental reporting is technology while 88 respondents representing 44% valid percentage stated that the factor that affects environmental reporting is negligence by the government and media houses. This implies that major factor that affect environmental reporting in Nigeria which is 44% is negligence by the government and media houses.

Discussion of findings

Research Question One: What is the extent to which journalists are knowledgeable on the rudiments of environmental reporting?

From the result of the study, it was revealed that 94 % of journalist in Enugu State were aware of the rudiments of environmental journalism. The result also revealed that 62 % of journalist in Enugu are aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting to a moderate extent. This findings is in conformity with the findings of MuyiwaPopoola on his study Content and Hermeneutical Analysis of Selected Newspapers' Reportage of Environmental Issues in Nigeria in 2014 which showed that environmental issues were reported, therefore it means that journalists are aware of rudiments of environmental reporting.

Research Question two: What are the challenges journalists encounter in the reportage of environmental issues?

From the result of the study, it was revealed that 82% of journalist in Enugu State face various challenges while reporting environmental issues. The result also revealed that 34 % of journalists indicated finance as their major while reporting environmental issues. This findings is in conformity with the findings of Uzochuwku, Ekwugha, and Marion titled Media Coverage of the Environment in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects showed that finance is one major challenge journalist face during environmental reporting. Therefore this means that the major challenge of environmental journalists is finance.

Research question three: What is the extent to which media houses give room to environmental friendly news?

From the result of the study, it was revealed that 60% of media houses moderately give room for environmental friendly news. Journalists in Enugu State face various challenges while reporting environmental issues. The result also revealed that 34 % of journalists indicated finance as their major while reporting environmental issues. This findings is in conformity with the findings of MuyiwaPopoola on their study Content and Hermeneutical Analysis of Selected Newspapers' Reportage of Environmental Issues in Nigeria in 2014 which also discovered that the newspapers devoted significant space to the reportage of the environmental issues. Therefore, this implies that media houses give room for environmental friendly news.



Research question four: What are the factors affecting the practice of environmental reporting in Nigeria?

From the result of the study, it was revealed that 44% of journalists indicated that negligence by the government and newspaper houses is the major factor that affect environmental reporting. This findings is in conformity with the findings of Uzochuwku, Ekwugha, Marion titled Media Coverage of the Environment in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects showed that the negligence of the government and media houses in one major factor that affects environmental reporting. This is in accordance with the two factor theory that stated journalists have to be encouraged so they can be in their best. If environmental reporting is neglected it is natural for environmental reporters to feel discouraged. This implies that in as much as media houses editorial policy give room for environmental friendly news they still disregard such news consciously or unconsciously.

Summary of findings

- The findings in the research question one revealed that 124 respondents representing 62 % valid percentage are aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting to a moderate extent, therefore journalists in Enugu are aware of rudiments in environmental reporting.
- The findings of the research question two revealed that 68 respondents representing 34% valid percentage indicated that the major challenge is lack of finance. Therefore journalist major challenge is finance.
- The findings of the research question three revealed that 120 respondents representing 60 % valid percentage accepted that their editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news to a moderate extent. Therefore editorial philosophy gives room for environmental friendly news.
- The findings of the research question four revealed that 88 respondents representing 44% valid percentage indicated that the factor that affects environmental reporting is negligence by the government and media houses. Therefore the major factor that affect environmental reporting is negligence by the government and media houses.

Conclusion

Based on the findings, there is evidence from the results of the study that there are inconsistency existing in the actualization of environmental reporting. The study observed these inconsistencies in the level of awareness and practice. The researcher therefore concludes that it is not enough to be aware of the rudiments of environmental reporting rather environmental issues should be reported not moderately but to at least a large extent.

Recommendations

Consequent to findings obtained from this study the researcher made the following

recommendations

- Environmental reporting is an important issue in the society because any individual can be affected by environmental issues like erosion, therefore issues like this should not be neglected by the government.
- Media houses should go beyond having philosophies that are environmental friendly, rather environmental reporting should not be taken for granted and it should be a beat given to reporters for coverage.
- Media houses should also encourage reporters of environmental issues, this will encourage them to do more.
- Stakeholders should work towards human resources development, technical cooperation and budgeting in favour of environmental reporting.



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