

The role of the media in security strategies (on the example of Bayelsa State, Nigeria)

Ide John Elliot (ORCID 0009-0002-0552-0497)
Imo State University (Owerri, Nigeria)

Ojiakor-Umenze Ifeoma (ORCID 0009-0000-0766-3964)
Imo State University (Owerri, Nigeria)

Emeka Williams Etumnu (ORCID 0000-0002-7186-117X)
Imo State University (Owerri, Nigeria)

ABSTRACT

Mass media as an important element of mass communication influence the formation of public opinion, the perception of security challenges in society. In an effort to fulfil its statutory role of informing the people, the radio media reports security issues so as to arm residents with the needed information. To this end, this study investigated the public perception of radio reports on security issues in Bayelsa State, Nigeria. Agenda-setting and perception theories served as the theoretical foundation of the study. A mixed-methods research design was employed. From the population of 2,277,961, a sample size of 384 was drawn for the study using the Wimmer and Dominick online sample size calculator. Meanwhile, a qualitative population was drawn from security operatives within the state as well as staff from the two private radio stations and two public radio stations. Questionnaire and interview guide were used as the instruments for data collection. Multistage and purposive sampling techniques were used in the study. Findings revealed that, on average, 62% of Bayelsa residents are exposed to radio reports on security issues within the state to a large extent. The qualitative data revealed similar findings. Further findings revealed that, at an average mean score of 3.1 (N = 377), respondents have positive perceptions. They are of the view that radio reports on security issues are objective. Also, the qualitative findings are in tandem with the quantitative findings.

KEYWORDS

*Radio,
insecurity,
reports,
Bayelsa,
Security strategies*

Introduction

Security issues are no doubt a global problem, and a country like Nigeria has its own share of them. One of the biggest challenges facing Nigeria today is insecurity. It is one of the most reported issues in the media, according to Zunino and Focás (2018). Different governments on board have their own share of security problems that have been reoccurring no matter what has been put up to end them. More than ever before, we are living in a period of grave security challenges in Nigeria where no place seems safe again (Ejirefe, 2021). Odishika (2021) states that even with an abundance of natural, human, and material resources at the disposal of succeeding administrations, Nigeria has struggled with the issue of national security for more than a century since its founding. Day by day, the nation's security situation has been worsening instead of improving. Along with concerning stories of daredevil bandits shooting and maiming people in the North and relentless attacks, kidnappings, militancy, and killings in the South, the Boko Haram insurgency has persisted for a long time and seems

unstoppable. This aligns with the assertion of Onifade et al. (2013) that Nigeria has been engulfed in a firestorm of insecurity, resulting in the murders of countless innocent citizens, foreigners, members of the country's security forces, elected politicians, and government employees. The insecurity problem has grown to epic proportions, causing the country's political and economic leaders, as well as the entire nation, to lament the loss of loved ones, investments, and the lack of security in most sections of the country, including Bayelsa State.

Security determines whether a country is healthy or not, much like nerve cells in the central nervous system. Any harm to one of these components of a nation's structure has the potential to severely impair its overall well-being and likelihood of survival. This explains why national security is given top priority in all international relations by countries all over the world (Odishika, 2021). Despite this, criminal activity and insecurity have continued to make headlines in Nigeria, including ritual killings, insurgency,



idesj4truth@gmail.com
ojiakor99@gmail.com
etumnuemeka@gmail.com

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Biafra agitation, kidnapping, and oil bunkering. The security crisis's wave, dynamics, and complexity have had extremely negative social effects, especially on the economy. Similarly, in the areas most affected by insecurity, commercial activity has become skeletonized and paralyzed. As a result, trade and commerce have significantly decreased, further impoverishing Nigerians and even reducing government revenue. Due to a fear of the unknown, social activities are extremely poor, especially in crisis-prone areas where many of the brightest minds and workforce have fled for fear of being abducted, murdered, or wounded (Obasiagbon & Akintoye, 2019).

According to Kalejaiye and Alliyu (2013), violent agitations have become a significant security issue for Nigeria, despite the fact that every nation has unique issues. For example, the necessity to manage the oil reserve in the region is said to be the cause of the violent unrest in the Niger Delta (Alao & Egwuonwu, 2012). Despite generating oil, some locals believe that the region is still underdeveloped since the resources are being used to build other parts of the nation. Exploration for oil has therefore caused damage to aquatic life and rendered the land unsuitable for farming, which is why it is causing unrest. As a result, there have been several violent incidents in the region, including the bombing of oil sites and the kidnapping of oil workers (Onuoha, 2016).

In the wake of these security problems, people need to be abreast of vital information so as to be properly guided. In such situations, the media become indispensable because they are one of the easiest and most reliable channels of information concerning security issues in the state, especially in this current dispensation where social media messages have also come on stage. This is why Poliska (2016) posited that the power of the media cannot be over-emphasized. The media has proven to be a very viable platform that can be utilised for several purposes, no doubt about that, and that through the media, people become aware of happenings in their environment and thereby shape their perception of issues so reported (Iheanacho et al., 2021; Poliska, 2016).

The focus of this study was on public perceptions of both private and public radio station reports on security issues in Bayelsa State. There are six (6) radio stations in Bayelsa State: four (4) are private and two (2) are public. Though the focus will be on two public-owned stations (Glory FM97.1, Radio Bayelsa, and Creek FM106.5, Radio Nigeria) and two private-owned stations (Raypower 102.5 FM and Silverbird Rhythm FM94.7), The reason for the selection is based on the station's popularity and audience acceptance rate.

Radio stations in Bayelsa state, in their bid to perform their surveillance function, carry out several reports on issues of insecurity as they affect Bayelsa residents. However, the question is: how do people perceive these reports? Consequently, the main thrust of this research work is to examine the public perception of radio reports on security issues in Bayelsa State, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem. Bayelsa State in recent times has had its own share of security problems, where security operatives have been attacked and sometimes killed, and at other times residents have been kidnapped or robbed. These incidents have caused both physical and psychological trauma to the people of this state, thus making economic activities in most parts of the state come to a standstill. Recently, in a press conference in Yenagoa, the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) expressed concern over what it

described as the rising incidents of kidnapping, killing, and other violent crimes in Bayelsa State. Security operatives, in an effort to curtail the issue, seem to be facing daunting challenges, as seen in several media reports on the issue of insecurity in the state. The radio medium, in an effort to fulfil its social responsibility role, reports on security issues in the state with the aim of drawing people's attention to them and thereby aiming to end them. The media's agenda-setting function influences people's perceptions of issues, either positively or adversely. However, how do Bayelsa residents perceive radio reports on security issues? Do they have a positive or negative perception of radio reports as they concern security issues? Have the radio reports been successful in drawing the attention of Bayelsa residents to the issue of insecurity in the state?

Objectives of the Study. The specific objectives of the study are;

1. To find out the extent Bayelsa residents are exposed to radio reports on security issues in the state;
2. To determine the knowledge level of Bayelsa State residents on security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues;
3. To find out the perception of Bayelsa residents on radio reports about security issues within the state;
4. Examine the behaviour of Bayelsa residents towards security issues based on their exposure to radio reports.

Research Hypothesis

H1: The perception residents of Bayelsa have on radio reports about security issues within the state is dependent on the gender of the respondents.

Literature Review. Looking at the concept of Insecurity.

When considering Nigeria, the term "insecurity" often evokes associations with Boko Haram, abductions, the Niger Delta crises, and ethno-religious conflicts. These terms represent a brand that is used to distinguish the unique character of insecurity in Nigeria compared to other African countries. Prior to the public emergence of Boko Haram terrorist activities in 2009, Nigeria had been experiencing a succession of abductions, mostly targeting foreign expatriates, by militants in the Niger Delta region of the country. According to reports, the militants were observed engaging in agitation in response to perceived injustices in their locality. According to Nwabueze and Ebeze (2013), the group initially conducted operations in the creeks, but when their actions expanded to the streets, they created a noticeable sense of insecurity in the southern area of Nigeria.

The insecurity situation in Nigeria has the potential to significantly disrupt business operations during periods of violence, often leading to the complete closure of enterprises. This is particularly evident in areas or zones where insecurity is prevalent and occurs on a daily basis. The primary objective is to safeguard the lives of operators and protect business property. In the absence of peace and security, the viability of enterprises is significantly compromised. Aluta (2021) posits that in light of persistent security difficulties and the government's failure to ensure safety and security within the nation, a pertinent inquiry that pervades the Nigerian populace at present is the feasibility of achieving security. Is it possible to achieve security for both life and property? Aluta expressed the view that the government, at various levels, has not adequately addressed the situation by directly confronting it and taking decisive action. Conversely, some argue that the situation may have a political undertone or inclination, aimed at serving

the interests of specific political figures who are dissatisfied and disgruntled with the political outcomes in the country.

Odishika (2021) states that the prevailing sense of uneasiness among the population is so tangible that many now whisper in public that if soldiers fail to safeguard them from the ongoing security challenges, they will turn to self-reliance. The populace resides in a state of apprehension; infrastructure valued at billions of Naira is undergoing destruction; our national integrity is scarcely preserved; and the country's political leadership is deficient in its capacity to exert power and authority.

Brief Background to the Insecurity in the Niger Delta Region. Nwagboso (2012) asserts that the Niger Delta conflict emerged during the early 1990s as a result of strained relations between international oil companies (IOCs) and certain representatives of minority ethnic groups in the Niger Delta region. These groups perceived that they were being subjected to exploitation without receiving appropriate compensation from the IOCs (*Osungade, 2008, as cited in Onifade et al., 2013*). Consequently, with the establishment of democracy in 1999, the region experienced ongoing ethnic and political turmoil throughout the 1990s. Nevertheless, the pursuit of oil wealth in the area led to protests, aggression, and the subsequent extrajudicial assassination of Ken Saro-Wiwa and nine Ogoni leaders by the Abacha dictatorship (*Urim, 1999, as cited in Onifade et al., 2013*). The Abacha regime's extrajudicial killing of Ogoni leaders was widely condemned by both domestic and foreign communities. Following this, Nigeria was subjected to sanctions within the specified term.

According to Nwagboso (2012), the government's inability or failure, especially during the military period, to effectively deal with the underlying causes of the unrest (such as environmental issues, poverty, unemployment, and a lack of basic amenities) in the Niger Delta region led to the emergence of ethnic militias with Niger Delta roots. This ultimately resulted in the militarization of almost the entire region. Hence, the groundwork was laid for the surge of uncertainty that plagued the entire area and permeated the structure of authority. In an effort to address environmental degradation and extreme poverty in the region, the government implemented various institutions and agencies, including the Oil and Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADEC), the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and the Ministry of the Niger Delta (MND). However, despite these interventions, conflicts and insecurity continued to persist in the Niger Delta area.

Indeed, the area faced serious security issues as well as the emergence of new insurgent groups linked to the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), such as the Niger Delta People's Volunteer Force (NDPVF) under Mujahid Dokubo-Asari and the Niger Delta vigilante (NDV) under Ateke Tom. According to Nwagboso (2012), these organisations allegedly joined the fight against the unfair treatment of the region by the Federal Government. This action worsened the security issues not only in the region but also throughout the entire Nigerian state. Although the leaders of the agitating groups were from the Ijaw nation, the two groups (NDPVF and NDV) overshadowed other lesser militias, which in the Niger Delta region are believed to exceed one hundred in number. The groups primarily consisted of young males who were dissatisfied with their lives and resided in Warri, Port Harcourt, Yenegoa, and the surrounding suburban regions (*Aderaju, 2008, as cited in Onifade et al., 2013*).

Broadcast Reports and Insecurity. The current porous security arrangements in the country call for intensified and sustainable reports by the broadcast media. Broadcast media reports are targeted to inform or educate audiences so as to change attitudes. Sandman in Day and Monroe (2000, as cited in Gever & Nwabuzor, 2015), noted that broadcast reports have the tendency to increase awareness, inform, or change behaviour in the target audience. It is expected that when the broadcast media intensify their effort in reporting security-related issues, it will lead to security alertness. Security alertness means being aware of our security. The Emotional Intelligence Institute (2013) notes that alertness is a valuable tool that can resourcefully help us navigate our minds better. If there is any weapon that Nigerians need now, it is security alertness, because other options have failed.

In the present circumstance in Nigeria, in which we are increasingly witnessing a new trend of social disorder and unrest orchestrated by the incessant terrorist attacks, bombings, armed robberies, and social vices, as well as the potential of this status quo to undermine the social economic development of the nation, there is a need for people to stay alert, and the broadcast media has a great role to play in keeping people alert through its campaigns and reports.

Empirical Review. Obarisiagbon and Akintoye's (2019) study found that a number of factors contribute to insecurity in Nigeria. These variables include ethno-religious conflicts, a poor security and justice system, unemployment, poverty, porous borders, uneven development, and marginalisation. Ejirefe (2020), in his report, revealed that Nigeria is not as safe as it used to be, especially in this era of terrorists' invasion, banditry, kidnapping, and other crimes in the country. Given that the lives, time, and money of VIPs matter much to society, there is a need for celebrities and VIPs to adopt security measures in Nigeria.

Okpokwasili (2019) found that libraries and social media significantly contributed to national unity and security. According to the study by Idoko and Umeh (2021), restructuring is essential in addressing Nigeria's security issues. The respondents said that restructuring Nigeria would significantly contribute to the country's ability to tackle its security concerns. Idoko and Umeh's study demonstrates that restructuring can effectively tackle Nigeria's security challenges by rectifying the country's imbalance, dispelling suspicion among various groups, promoting fair wealth distribution, fostering greater accountability, reducing ethnic conflicts, and diminishing class disparities. They also suggested that other factors, such as self-interest, a lack of political will, ethnic considerations, disagreements among activists, and constitutional restrictions, might make restructuring more difficult to implement.

In their study, Ezeegwu et al. (2021) found that Arise TV provided higher coverage of the EndSARS protest, accounting for 51.8% of the reports, compared to the Nigerian Television Authority, which covered 48.2% of the news on the EndSARS protest in Nigeria. Subsequent research revealed that both stations utilised a format of talk shows to convey the EndSARS protest. However, Arise TV provided more comprehensive coverage of the EndSARS demonstration compared to the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA). In their study, Nwabueze and Ebeze (2013) analyse the crucial function of mass media in addressing the increasing crime rates that have resulted in a state of insecurity in the country, particularly in the North, South Eastern, and South Southern regions. The researchers concluded that it is crucial for journalists to receive frequent

training on terrorism and conflict reporting in order to stay updated on contemporary tactics that can be employed to effectively utilise the mass media in addressing insecurity in Nigeria.

The study conducted by Akale and Udegnunam (2018) investigated the significance of media in the context of national security, with a particular focus on the north-east region of Nigeria, where ongoing insecurity has been a prevalent issue. The report emphasised that the state employs various strategies, including utilising the media as a means to counter violent narratives, enhancing conflict-sensitive reporting, restricting access to media platforms, and effectively containing the deployment of such platforms by Boko Haram terrorists, in order to safeguard lives and properties in the North East region of Nigeria.

Taiwo et al. (2021) investigated the attitude of South-east State inhabitants regarding the broadcast media coverage of events involving "unknown" gunmen in Southeast Nigeria. The investigation revealed that the activities of unidentified armed individuals in Southeast Nigeria can be attributed to inadequate governance. The presence of these individuals has had a detrimental impact on residential areas. Furthermore, it has been observed that the media has not sufficiently covered the incidents involving these unidentified armed individuals in Southeast Nigeria. Furthermore, the media has demonstrated a lack of accuracy, truthfulness, and fairness in their reporting of these activities. In a study conducted by Macaulay et al. (2021), it was observed that respondents, with an average mean of 3.0 (N = 369), saw social media as a means of spreading security concerns. It is widely held that social media users have exhibited bad usage patterns on the platform, thereby fostering security concerns.

In their study, Gever and Nwabuzor (2015) investigated the correlation between broadcast media campaigns and the level of security awareness among the public. The study found a notable correlation between broadcast media advertisements and the public's level of security vigilance. Additional research findings have also indicated that the association, although statistically significant, is of a weak nature. On the other hand, elements that contribute to the improvement of audience comprehension in broadcast security awareness programmes include frequency, linguistic simplicity, content richness, and persuasiveness. Researchers contend that in light of the perceived inefficiency of security intelligence within Nigerian security agencies, it is imperative for the broadcast media to utilise its immediacy capabilities in order to cultivate a heightened sense of security awareness among Nigerians. This strategic approach aims to effectively address the issue of security intelligence. Omoera et al. (2017) conducted a study to investigate the role of mass media in addressing security issues that pose a threat to the unity and survival of Nigeria. According to reports, the media is providing extensive coverage and attention to the security difficulties posed by insurgencies and terrorism, which have posed and continue to pose threats to the ongoing existence of Nigeria.

Udeze and Chukwuma (2013) conducted a study on audience evaluation of broadcast media surveillance and its impact on national security in Nigeria. Their findings revealed that the broadcast media is ineffective in carrying out their surveillance role. In their study, Gever and Coleman (2019) employed the content analysis methodology to examine the reporting of the conflict between farmers and herders in central Tiv Land, Benue State, Nigeria, as expressed in media coverage. The findings indicated that the

predominant text type in both newspapers was predominantly journalistic news (64.5%). The research also showed that the newspapers primarily focused on covering the fighting in real-time, paying little attention to the war's victims. The study's findings revealed that 71.3 percent of the conflict-related stories were published on the inside page.

In her study, Odishika (2021) investigated the efficacy of radio in tackling the interconnected challenges of national security and sustainable development in Nigeria. The study revealed that the programme's conceptualization, articulation, design, and delivery endow it with the ability to achieve the desired outcomes. Chukwuere and Onyebukwa (2018) conducted a study that specifically focused on the context of the northern and south-eastern regions of Nigeria to examine the role of social media platforms in sustaining social and national instability. The research revealed that Nigeria's security environment is significantly inadequate, with social media platforms not posing a threat to the nation's security. The participants expressed uncertainty about the potential escalation of instability in the northern and south-eastern regions of Nigeria, among other factors.

Theoretical Framework. This study was anchored on two theories: agenda-setting theory and perception theory, because they best suit the discourse in this study. The agenda-setting theory, as earlier mentioned, can be traced to the first chapter of Walter Lippmann's 1922 book, *Public Opinion*. Before Cohen made the famous comment in 1963 that the press "may not be successful much of the time in telling people what to think, but it is stunningly successful in telling its readers what to think about, However, McCombs and Shaw were responsible for formally developing the theory. The agenda-setting function of the media reveals that the media not only make the audience learn factual information about public affairs and what is happening in the world but also how much importance to attach to issues such as insecurity due to the emphasis placed on them by the media (Alphonsus et al., 2022).

Gever and Nwabuzor (2015) argue that agenda-setting theory suggests that the media pre-determine the problems that people should consider. According to the scholar, the media employ several strategies to achieve this objective, including the frequency of reporting, the prominence of stories through headline displays, the use of visuals and layout in newspapers, magazines, and films, as well as the graphic design and timing employed on radio and television. Additionally, the level of conflict arising from the stories and the cumulative impact of media-specific impacts over a period of time. This means the media (broadcast) has the potential, through its programming and reports, to set an agenda for Nigerians, particularly residents of Bayelsa, on the current security challenge in the state.

Through frequent, meaningful, and responsible reports on acts that breed insecurity and even insecurity itself in Bayelsa State, the media can sensitise the public against such issues. Frequent discussions on issues of insecurity will not just draw attention to the need to address such problems but also awaken consciousness to the need to combat insecurity (Nwabueze & Ebeze, 2013). This theory is relevant because it provides the basis for us to understand the usefulness of the media (radio) in drawing our attention to issues of insecurity and shaping our perception of the issue.

Perception, as defined by Bovee et al. (1995) and cited in Agbo (2016), refers to the cognitive process wherein individuals are exposed to a stimulus, allocate a certain level of attention, and subsequently interpret the message they get. Therefore, the phenomenon of perception encompasses the sequential stages of exposure, attention, and interpretation. In order for perception to occur, it is necessary for individuals to be exposed to stimuli, such as radio broadcasts, and to allocate a specific amount of attention to these stimuli. Subsequently, the audience interprets the stimuli (Osuaigwu, 2020; Ezinwa, 2014).

Perception theory elucidates the cognitive process through which individuals choose, arrange, and assess stimuli from their surroundings in order to derive significant experiences for themselves. The idea offers an explanation for the varying reactions of audiences to specific messages (Anaeto et al., 2008). This suggests that the interpretation of a particular message can vary across different audiences.

This theory is relevant to the study because people reacted differently to broadcast media reports of security issues in Bayelsa State. Each audience or group of audience members sees the reports based on how they were able to interpret the media reports. Some viewed the reportage as good and efficient, while others perceived the reportage as not too good or inefficient, depending on the extent of their exposure to and knowledge of the issue reported.

Method and Procedure

Research Design. The explanatory mixed research approach was used in this study due to its suitability. To use this method, you must collect quantitative data first and then qualitative data to help explain or elaborate on the quantitative results afterward. A combination of survey and interview research design was possible as a result. In this study, survey research was used to generate numerical data for analysis, in line with the study's aim. An in-depth interview was also conducted so as to generate qualitative data that supplemented the quantitative data. Using two or more methods helped strengthen the findings of a study (Wimmer & Dominic, 2016).

Population of the Study/Sample Size. The population of the study consists of residents in Bayelsa State. According to the National Bureau of Statistics 2017 bulletin publication, the projected population of Bayelsa is 2,277,961. Therefore, the population of this study is 2,277,961. The Wimmer and Dominick online sample size calculator statistical tool was used to determine the sample size of 384 at a 95% confidence level and 5% error margin. The population target for the interview was chosen to include state security personnel, employees of two commercial radio stations (Rhythm FM and Raypower FM102.5), and two government-owned public radio stations (Radio Nigeria, Creek FM1006.5, and Radio Bayelsa-Glory FM97.1). The researcher purposefully selected these individuals to generate answers on their perspective in the radio reports on security issues within the state. Therefore, a total of twelve (12) individuals were selected for the interview.

Sampling Technique. Bayelsa State has three senatorial districts, also known as clusters. Each unit was categorised using the multi-stage sampling technique. There are eight local government councils, or clusters, in each of the three zones or clusters. Simple random sampling was used to select two communities from each of the senatorial districts, taking into consideration the local government. In

this case, a multi-stage sampling method was used. Below is a list of the local government areas or clusters that make up each senatorial district or cluster. Stages in the sampling technique

Stage One: The senatorial districts were grouped accordingly. Bayelsa East Senatorial District

Bayelsa West Senatorial District and Bayelsa Central Senatorial District. Stage Two: These senatorial districts contain a total of eight LGAs, which are given as follows: Bayelsa East Senatorial District (Ogbia, Nembe, and Brass), Bayelsa West Senatorial District (Sagabama and Ekeremor), and Bayelsa Central Senatorial District (Yenagoa, Kolokuma/Okpokuma, and Southern Ijaw). Stage Three: From these LGAs, two communities were randomly selected; they are as follows: Otuoke, Kolo, Imiringi, Otakeme, Opume, Emekala, Okoroba, Sangama, Ndoro, Aghoro, Adagbabari, Azikoro, Olobiri, Okiri, and Miniekinsi. Stage Four: From each of the selected communities, 48 residents were non-proportionately selected to fill out the questionnaire. For the in-depth interview, the purposive sampling technique was adopted so as to generate data from the interview participants.

Instrument for Data Collection. Questionnaire and interview schedule were used as instruments for data collection. The questionnaire helped to elicit quantitative data, while the interview schedule served as a guide towards generating qualitative data, respectively. The questionnaire was structured around close-ended questions to generate responses from respondents. The demographic characteristics, as expected, were contained in Section A of the questionnaire, while Section B contained questions related to the research questions and research hypothesis. The questions were structured in Likert-scale dichotomous formats. For the interview guide, questions were structured in line with the objectives and research questions. Room for follow-up questions was provided in the instrument. The instrument was structured in simple English, devoid of ambiguity.

Validity/Reliability of Instrument. In validating the instruments, two communication experts at Imo State University examined the research instrument to ensure that it was structured in a way that was in line with the study objectives. Corrections that were made were incorporated into the final draft of the instrument. For the reliability of the instrument, the researchers carried out a test-retest method where they administered the instrument to a group of respondents in Bayelsa State. After two weeks, the same questionnaire was re-administered to respondents with the same characteristics as the first audience. The test scores of the two responses were subjected to a Cronbach alpha test to ascertain the level of reliability. The reliability test result was .71, meaning the instrument is reliable. (See Appendix I.) Meanwhile, the member checking method was adopted to check for the level of dependability of the qualitative data instrument.

Method of Data Collection. The questionnaire as instrument for data collection was distributed on a face-to-face basis within a period of four weeks with the aid of research assistant. As for the qualitative aspect of the study the researcher conducted the interview session with a select group staff from the of the radio station as well as some select civil servant in the state at their own convenient time. The interview session averagely lasted for 20-35 minutes.

Method of Data Analysis. The study adopted simple percentage tables, charts, and mean analysis to analyse results for the demographic section of the questionnaire as

well as items that relate to the research questions. Also, a chi-square test of independence with the aid of SPSS version 21 was used in testing the research hypotheses based on a significant level of 0.05%. As for the qualitative analysis, the explanation-building technique was used.

Results and Discussion

This section of the study focuses on data presentation and analysis. The quantitative data was first presented in

chart and table format using simple percentages and mean analysis before the qualitative data was presented in an explanation-building technique. The hypotheses formulated in this study were tested with the SPSS version 21 statistical application. Out of the 384 copies of the question distributed, 377 (98%) were found usable, while 7 (2%) copies were not returned. The return rate stood at 98%. Therefore, analysis was done with the 377 copies of the valid questionnaire.

Demographics of the Respondents

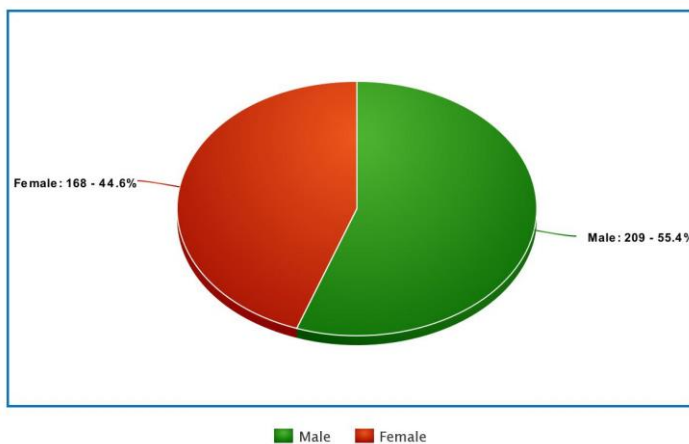


Figure 1. Respondents Gender Sex

Analysis of data shows that 55.4% of respondents are male. This means they were more male in the study compare to female respondents.

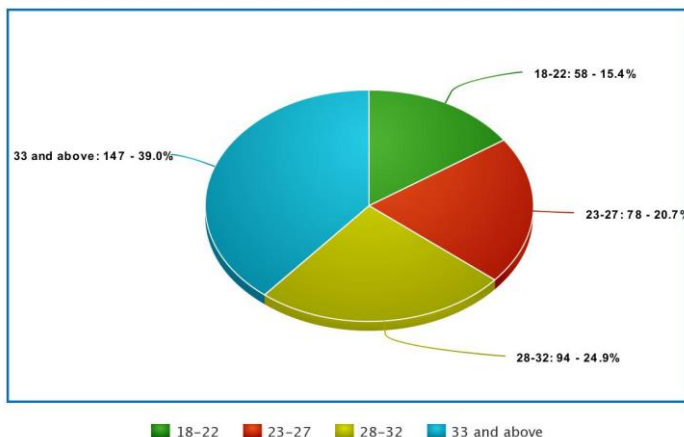


Figure 2. Age Distribution of Respondents

The chart 2 above shows that 39.0% of respondents were between the age bracket of 33 and above. By implication it means that those within the age range of 33 and above as grouped in the study were more than the other groups.

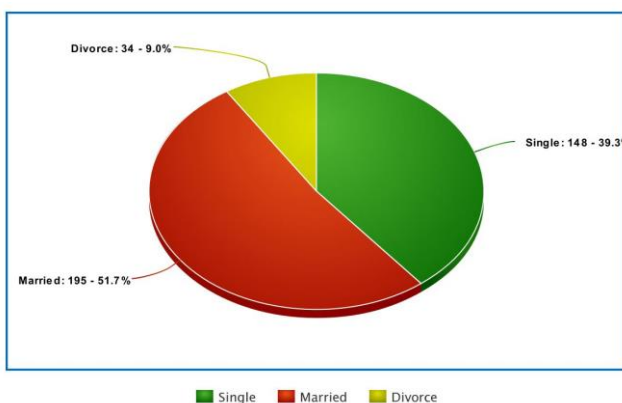
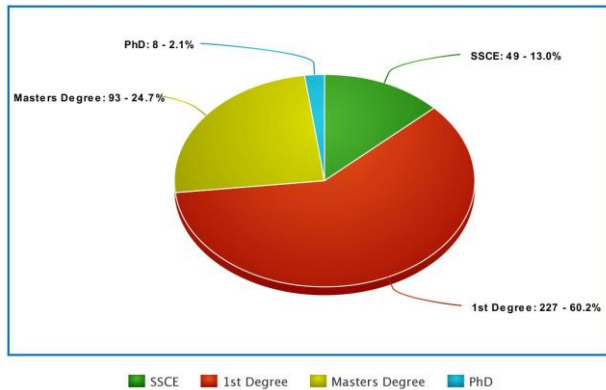


Figure 3. Marital Status of Respondents

Data presented in the above chart 3 reveals that 51.7% of respondents are married. This implies that most of the respondents studied are married.



Data presented as seen in chart 4 shows that 60.2% of respondents are first degree holders. It implies that they were more first-degree holders in the study.

Figure 4. Educational Attainment of Respondents

Research Question One: To what extent Bayelsa residents are exposed to radio reports on security issues within the state?

Table 1. Respondents views on how often they listen to radio

Age of respondent (years)	Frequency	Percentage
Very often	171	45%
Often	137	36%
Not often	72	19%
I don't listen	-	-
Total	377	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

Data as presented on the above table 1 revealed that 45% of respondents listen to radio very often. By implication of this finding it means that majority of the respondent are well exposed to radio.

Table 2. Respondents views on you listen to radio reports on security issues

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	337	100%
No	-	-
Total	377	100

Source: Field survey, 2023

Analysis of data from the above table 2 reveals that all the respondents listen to radio reports on security issues. By implication it means that all the respondents do listen to radio reports on security issues

Table 3. Respondents views on the extent they listen to radio reports on security issues

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very Large extent	111	29%
Large extent	149	40%
Moderately	24	6%
Low extent	30	8%
Can't say	63	17%
Total	377	100%

Source: Field survey, 2023

Analysis of data as presented in table 3 reveals that 40% of respondents listen to radio reports on security issues. The indication is that majority of the respondents listen to radio reports on security issues.

Table 4. Research Question Two what extent are Bayelsa State residents knowledgeable on security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues?

Items	N	X	Decision
Exposure to radio reports on security issue have made them to know that late night movement needs to be avoided	377	3.3	Accept
Through radio report I have become knowledgeable that kidnapping is still prevalent	377	3.2	Accept
Radio report not moving alone especially in a lonely place is a good security tip	377	3.5	Accept
Weighted mean		3.3	

Source: Field survey, 2023

The questions raised under this section were aimed at determining the extent to which Bayelsa State residents are knowledgeable about security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues. Findings from the data revealed that, at an average mean score of 3.3 (N = 377), the extent to which Bayelsa State residents are knowledgeable on security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues is high.

Table 5. Research Question Three: What is the perception of Bayelsa residents on radio reports about security issues within the state?

Items	N	X	Decision
The radio reports on security issues are objective	377	3.1	Accept
Radio reports have been effective in drawing security operatives' attention to security issues	377	3.3	Accept
Radio reports have been professional enough not to cause panic among the resident in Bayelsa State	377	3.0	Accept
Weighted mean		3.1	

Source: Field survey, 2023

Questions raised under this section were aimed at examining the perception of Bayelsa residents on radio reports about security issues within the state. Analysis of the data revealed that, at an average mean score of 3.1 (N = 377), respondents have positive perceptions. They are of the view that radio reports on security issues are objective, that radio reports have been effective in drawing security operatives' attention to security issues, and that radio reports have been professional enough not to cause panic among the residents of Bayelsa State.

Table 6. Research Question Four: What is the behaviour of Bayelsa residents towards security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues?

Items	N	X	Decision
I participate in my neighborhood security because of my exposure to radio reports on security	377	3.0	Accept
As soon as I suspect strange movement, I raise alarm	377	3.2	Accept
I avoid crowded places because of the tips I got from radio reports on security issue	377	2.9	Accept
I avoid talking to a total stranger or giving them vital information because I have become exposed to security measures on radio reports	377	3.1	Accept
Weighted mean		3.1	

Source: Field survey, 2023

Questions raised under this section were aimed at ascertaining the behaviour of Bayelsa State residents towards security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues. Analysis of data reveals that at an average mean score of 3.1 (N = 377) respondents participate in neighbourhood security because of their exposure to radio reports on security; that as soon as they suspect strange movement, they raise an alarm; that they avoid crowded places because of the tips they got from radio reports on security issues; and that they avoid talking to a total stranger or giving them vital information because they have become exposed to security measures on radio reports. These are some of the behaviours Bayelsa residents exhibit due to their exposure to radio reports on security issues.

Summary of Qualitative Data Presentation (In-depth Interview)

This section focuses on the qualitative data analysis. The questions asked were in line with the research questions, and they were presented in a similar manner. The researcher asked a question centred on the extent of exposure to radio reports on security issues within the state. Participants' responses are summarised below:

"Well, I think they are well exposed to security reports considering their responses to some security issues within the state... (What kind of response?) Like avoiding moving alone or raising alarm in situations that can threaten the security of the state."

"Yes, they are exposed because, from time to time, we give security tips to people so that they can sense danger and take precaution. I am certain about that."

"You can tell from their contributions to security reports on the radio. These residents know the danger-prone areas, so their contributions go a long way in raising consciousness about security issues."

"Oh yes! They are highly exposed, and who wouldn't want to be safe by being open to information that can help them stay alert? A whole lot of things are happening recently, so it is wise to stay alert, and being exposed to information is one of the key ways to stay alert. Based on my personal observation, I think people are exposed to security reports."

From these responses, one can infer that residents of Bayelsa State are exposed to security reports on radio to a large extent.

To what extent are Bayelsa State residents knowledgeable on security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues?

The researcher asked the participants to what extent Bayelsa State residents are knowledgeable about security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues. A few of the major answers that those interviewed gave were:

"In some of the areas that I know of, they do security meetings where they brief people on how to be security conscious; if they are not knowledgeable of the security situation, they wouldn't be doing that."

"The local security outfits in several areas from time to time give security updates on their areas, and this has been going on for a while now, and I am certain they are doing the same to the people to make them aware of the situation of things within their locality."

"Haa! From their insight, especially when they contribute to radio programmes on the state of security, you will know they are knowledgeable on the security issues in the state."

"In truth, I cannot deny the fact that most of the residents are knowledgeable. You cannot help but avail yourself of the opportunity to know what is going on around you for your own good."

"Based on the security reports I will receive from these residents, I cannot help but tell you that they are well exposed and knowledgeable about security issues in Bayelsa State."

In line with the responses from interview participants, it is confirmed that residents of Bayelsa State are knowledgeable about security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues.

What is the perception of Bayelsa residents on radio reports about security issues within the state?

"Most times when they call in, they commend our efforts in trying to keep everyone abreast of the security situation in the state. Such commendations are quite encouraging, I must say."

"Oh yes! Most of the contributors to our security reports package always note that they like the way we balance our reports. You know we need to be as professional as possible in handling security, which is very delicate."

"Well, I think the people are receptive to our efforts to quell any chances of insecurity."

"I always appreciate their calmness in security situations. When they get reports of security problems, they are always proactive, and I must commend them because they make the work easy for us."

"Well, if I must say, I am sure radio reports in the form of news and even programmes have been effective in keeping people up-to-date with security information."

From the responses, it is clear that interview participants perceived that residents have a positive perception of radio reports about security issues within the state.

What is the behaviour of Bayelsa residents towards security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues?

The researcher asked question to ascertain behaviour of Bayelsa residents towards security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues. Answers provided were summarised below:

"Most of the residents do participate in neighbourhood security, and we even liaise with them to keep their neighbourhood safe from criminal elements."

"We were informed that street security gates have been constructed as a security measure. From my personal observation, as soon as it is past 11 p.m., those gates are closed. These are security measures put in place by the people I must commend."

"Residents do raise alarm when they suspect strange movement or activity that is capable of breaching the security of their locality. They send text or call most times; they hide their identity for security reasons."

"Yes, they are proactive; for instance, when they call to contribute to a programme, they always say that whenever they suspect any stranger, they question him or her."

"Well, I must say the information we pass out is contributing a lot, as you can see the caller that called in my programme reiterated that he avoids staying in the crowded like a plague."

Responses from interview participants are indicative that Bayelsa State residents are exhibiting positive behaviour towards security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues.

Test of Hypotheses

H1: The perception residents of Bayelsa have on radio reports about security issues within the state is dependent on the gender of the respondents.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	Df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	268.611 ^a	3	.000
Likelihood Ratio	364.595	3	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	233.324	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	377		

a. 0 cells (0.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 14.26.

It is clear from the chi-square test that the Pearson chi-square is inappropriate because its predicted cell count is less than five (zero). After adoption, the Chi-Square likelihood ratio was determined to be 364.595, with a p-value of 0.000. using (C-1) (R-1) to get the degree of freedom, where C is the number of columns and R is the number of rows. With $\alpha = 0.05$, the Ttab under 9 has a value of 2.13. Recalling that the test for hypothesis indicates that "the difference in the observed frequencies is considered to be statistically significant at the predetermined alpha level if the calculated Chi-Square value equals or is greater than the value found in the table; if the calculated value is similar, the results are non-significant." Given that 268.611a is greater than 2.13, the null hypothesis is rejected, and the alternative is accepted since the association is significant. This means that the perception residents of Bayelsa have of security issues within the state is dependent on the gender of the respondents.

Discussion of Findings

Findings from quantitative data showed that, on average, 62% of Bayelsa residents are exposed to radio reports on security issues within the state to a large extent.

The qualitative data revealed similar findings, as seen in their responses. "Well, I think they are well exposed to security reports, considering their responses to some security issues within the state." "Yes, they are exposed because, from time to time, we give security tips to people so that they can sense danger and take precaution. I am certain about that." "You can tell from their contributions to security reports on the radio. These residents know the danger-prone areas, so their contributions go a long way in raising consciousness about security issues." This result is consistent with Udeze and Chukwuma's (2013) research, which discovered that the media's role in surveillance involves monitoring the environment and reporting threats, particularly those that are imminent. This helps to increase people's awareness of insecurity. The study by Gever and Essien (2019), which also reveals a high percentage of newspaper coverage of the herdsmen-farmers conflict in central Tiv Land, Benue State, Nigeria, is relevant to the findings of this study. This coverage inevitably exposes the public to accounts of the conflict. Also, in line with the findings, Gever and Nwabuzor (2015) revealed in their study that the frequency of broadcast media reports on insecurity increases the security awareness and alertness of the audience. In essence, they are of the view that an adequate report on insecurity can trigger the audience's awareness. Furthermore, Nwabueze and Ebeze (2013) found in their research that the mass media play a crucial role in preventing crime from rising, which can exacerbate the nation's condition of insecurity. By doing this, the media helps people become aware of the issue and work towards reducing it. This research supports the agenda-setting theory because it creates a forum for discussion of security issues by regularly reporting them, which in turn raises public awareness of the problem. This result suggests that Bayelsa State inhabitants listen to radio reports about security-related matters on a regular basis.

Findings from the quantitative angle of the study revealed that, at an average mean score of 3.3, the extent to which Bayelsa State residents are knowledgeable on security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues is high. The qualitative findings share similarities with those of the quantitative findings. In some of their responses, they noted that "from their insight, especially when they contribute to radio programmes on the state of security, you will know they are knowledgeable on the security issues in the state." "In truth, I cannot deny the fact that most of the residents are knowledgeable. You cannot help but avail yourself of the opportunity to know what is going on around you for your own good." "Based on the security reports I will receive from these residents. I cannot help but tell you that they are well exposed and knowledgeable about security issues in Bayelsa State." This finding is in tandem with that of Ejirefe (2020), who revealed that with the knowledge of insecurity in Nigeria, residents adopt security measures so as to stay safe. It is obvious that the level of knowledge on security issues determines the position of residents in taking drastic measures to stay safe. In a similar vein, Okpokwasili's (2019) study found that social media and libraries in Nigeria facilitate national security and unity and that they significantly contribute to the advancement of information regarding these topics. Additionally, Ezeegwu et al. (2021) found in their study that while Arise TV and NTA covered the EndSARS protest, Arise TV's coverage was more in-depth, which over time raised citizens' awareness of the EndSARS tragedy. The implication of this finding is that

significant exposure to security reports on security issues has the tendency to improve knowledge levels. Again, this finding correlates with the agenda-setting theory this study was anchored on because issues discussed as an agenda can contribute to knowledge levels.

Analysis of the data revealed that, at an average mean score of 3.1, respondents have positive perceptions. They are of the view that radio reports on security issues are objective, that radio reports have been effective in drawing security operatives' attention to security issues, and that radio reports have been professional enough not to cause panic among the residents of Bayelsa State. Also, in tandem with the quantitative findings is the qualitative finding as revealed in the responses. "Most times when they call in, they commend our efforts in trying to keep everyone abreast of the security situation in the state. Such commendations are quite encouraging, I must say." "Oh yes! Most of the contributors to our security reports package always note that they like the way we balance our reports. You know we need to be as professional as possible in handling security, which is very delicate." "Well, I think the people are receptive to our efforts to quell any chances of insecurity." These results are consistent with those of Idoko and Umeh (2021), who found that respondents believe restructuring is the key to addressing Nigeria's security issues. Additionally, they believed that Nigeria's restructuring would greatly aid the nation in resolving its security issues. Additionally, Gever and Nwabuzor (2015) discovered in their research that viewers believe broadcast media will significantly help address Nigeria's security issues if it uses its immediacy strength to instill a sense of security awareness among Nigerians. Additionally, Omoera et al. (2017) found in their study that the mass media is covering and paying close attention to the security challenges as they carry out their mandated duties of giving people the information they need to survive in the Nigerian state, which helps to shape people's perceptions. Taiwo et al.'s study from 2021, however, showed that the media has not done a good enough job of covering the activities of "unknown" gunmen attacks in Southeast Nigeria, nor have they shown a high degree of accuracy, truthfulness, and fairness in doing so. In the meantime, Macaulay et al.'s survey from 2021 discovered that respondents believed social media was used to spread security-related misinformation. They think that because social media users have abused the site, security issues are encouraged. The results are consistent with the perception theory that served as the study's foundation. Based on how they understand the message as proposed by the perception theory, the respondents' perceptions are formed. Furthermore, the idea validates the study's speculative conclusion that respondents' perceptions vary according to their gender. Therefore, gender may have an impact on how radio broadcast media understand security messages.

Analysis of the data reveals that, at an average mean score of 3.1, respondents have a positive behavioural disposition towards security issues based on their exposure to radio reports on security issues. According to the findings, residents participate in neighbourhood security because of their exposure to radio reports on security. They confirmed that as soon as they suspect strange movement, they raise an alarm, they avoid crowded places because of the tips they got from radio reports on security issues, and they avoid talking to a total stranger or giving them vital information because they have become exposed to secu-

city measures in radio reports. These are some of the behaviours Bayelsa residents exhibit due to their exposure to radio reports on security issues. On the other hand, the qualitative data share similarities with the quantitative findings, as seen in some of the responses captured. "Most of the residents do participate in neighbourhood security, and we even liaise with them to keep their neighbourhood safe from criminal elements." "We were informed that street security gates have been constructed as a security measure. From my personal observation, as soon as it is past 11 p.m., those gates are closed. These are security measures put in place by the people I must commend." "Residents do raise alarm when they suspect strange movement or activity that is capable of breaching the security of their locality. They send text or call; most times they hide their identity for security reasons." According to Odishika (2021), this finding is supported by the fact that the FRCN's "Watch 360" initiative has helped national security and sustainable development in Nigeria and has, over time, changed behaviour that supports these goals. Also, the findings of Gever and Nwabuzor (2015) revealed that audience understanding of broadcast security awareness campaigns leads to security intelligence among people in Nigeria. Furthermore, Akale and Udegnunam (2018) revealed in their study that in order to protect lives and properties from the Boko Haram insurgency, the state explores all necessary tools to counter the insurgency and other forms of insecurity, which include using the media as tools to counter violent narratives and enhanced conflict-sensitive reporting. The implication of these findings is that exposure to radio reports on insecurity has the propensity to influence positive behaviour towards security issues. This finding equally supports the hypothetical findings, which stated that the behaviour of Bayelsa residents towards security issues is dependent on the extent to which Bayelsa residents are exposed to radio reports on security issues within Bayelsa state.

Conclusion

Based on the results obtained, it may be inferred that the participants have substantial exposure to radio broadcasts pertaining to security issues. This exposure contributes to the level of knowledge they have about radio reports on security issues in Bayelsa State. It was also concluded that respondents have a positive perception of radio reports on security issues as well as a positive behavioural disposition. In line with the results of the study, there is no doubt that the positive perception and behaviour exhibited by residents are a result of the level of exposure to radio reports on security issues in Bayelsa State. In essence, exposure to radio reports on security issues has a significant influence on the residents of Bayelsa State.

Recommendation

In line with the findings, it was therefore recommended that:

1. Since residents are largely exposed to radio reports radio content creators should not relent in their efforts in creating the needed awareness on how to be security alert in order to stay safe.

2. Given that residents are highly knowledgeable on security issues based on their exposure to radio reports, there should be a kind of synergy between security agencies and the media with the aim of enlightening the residents on important security tips so as to stay abreast of the latest information on security issues in Bayelsa State.

3. Radio media content producers should sustain their efforts in producing highly professional reports that can continue to shape residents' perceptions of radio reports on security issues positively.

4. The fact that residents' behaviour is tied to their exposure to radio reports. It is therefore recommended that residents avail themselves of useful information that will help them build security-conscious behaviour. On the other hand, media practitioners should be trained and retrained on reporting security issues so that their reports will continue to influence audience behaviour positively.

Implications and limitations of the Study

This study will be of immense significance to broadcast media because they will be able to know how people perceive their reports that have to do with security issues. It will also serve as a guide for them on how to package their programmes and reports so that they will be appealing to their audience, especially in matters relating to security. This study will also be of importance to law enforcement agents who are responsible for maintaining law and order in society by getting the needed information concerning the issue of security in Bayelsa State and how to address it. This study has the potential to enhance comprehension of the practical implications of the theories employed in this research. It would be beneficial to include additional details on how these theories might be utilised in research on perception and radio coverage of security issues in Bayelsa State and, consequently, in Nigeria as a whole. Academically, this study will add to the existing literature on broadcasting and security issues in Nigeria. It will also serve as reference material for researchers who would like to carry out a study in a similar area. Due to its limitations, the study was limited to only radio reports without paying attention to television reports or other forms of communication. Therefore, the findings were based only on exposure to radio reports. Another limitation was that most of the security operatives were reluctant to give detailed information as they were of the view that some information was classified. Some of them were being careful with the information they gave out. Based on the limitations, the researchers made the following suggestions for further study: Since this study focuses only on radio, further studies can consider undertaking a comparative study of both radio and television reports on security issues in Bayelsa State. A study should be carried out on social media on the effectiveness of social media reports on security issues in Bayelsa State.

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APPENDIX I
Cronbach's Alpha Reliability Test
Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.718	.757	8

Роль медіа у стратегіях безпеки (на прикладі штату Байельса в Нігерії)

Іде Джон Елліот (ORCID 0009-0002-0552-0497)
Державний університет Імо (Оверрі, Нігерія)

Оджіакор-Умензе Іфеома (ORCID 0009-0000-0766-3964)
Державний університет Імо (Оверрі, Нігерія)

Емека Вільямс Етумну (ORCID 0000-0002-7186-117X)
Державний університет Імо (Оверрі, Нігерія)

Медіа як важливий елемент масової комунікації впливають на формування громадської думки, сприйняття безпекових викликів у суспільстві. Прагнучи виконувати свою законодавчу функцію інформування людей, радіо як різновид медіа повідомляє про питання безпеки, щоб озброїти жителів необхідною інформацією. Метою цього дослідження є сприйняття громадськістю радіорепортажів про проблеми безпеки в штаті Байельса, Нігерія. Теоретичною основою дослідження послужили теорії встановлення порядку денного та сприйняття. Було використано змішаний метод дослідження. Із загальної кількості населення штату у 2 277 961 осіб для дослідження було відібрано 384 вибірки за допомогою онлайн-калькулятора розміру вибірки Wimmer and Dominick. Водночас якісну аудиторію було зібрано з оперативників служби безпеки в державі, а також співробітників двох приватних радіостанцій і двох громадських радіостанцій. Інструментами для збору даних стали анкета та посібник з інтерв'ю. У дослідженні використовували методику багатоетапної та цільової вибірки. Висновки показали, що в середньому 62% мешканців Байельси значною мірою отримують радіорепортажі про проблеми безпеки в штаті. Якісні дані показали подібні результати. Подальші результати показали, що при середньому балі 3,1 (N = 377) респонденти мають позитивне сприйняття. Вони вважають об'єктивними радіорепортажі з питань безпеки. Крім того, якісні висновки корелюються з кількісними результатами.

Ключові слова: радіо, незахищеність, звіти, Байельса, безпекові стратегії.

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