

ASSESSMENT OF *THE PUNCH* AND *THE GUARDIAN*'S NEWSPAPERS REPORTAGE ON CHILD ABUSE CASES IN NIGERIA

OGUNTOMISIN Oluwadare Oladipo [and](#) OLUWAKUSE Joshua Olu
Department of Mass Communication, Faculty of The Social Sciences,
Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko, Nigeria.

Abstract

Child abuse is a social menace which has damaged the lives of many young people in Nigeria. Attempting to address this threat involves adequate information about its devastating influence on the Nigerian child. Thus, this study analyzed the coverage of child abuse cases by the Punch and Guardian newspapers with a view to ascertain how well the subject of child abuse is taken seriously by the traditional media, especially the newspapers. The study adopted the content analysis method of research. The researchers adopted the consensus sampling technique to select 184 editions of the two foremost Nigerian newspapers (The Punch and The Guardian) within the period of August 1st and October 31st, 2016. The period under review was the time when agitation for the release of the kidnapped Chibok school girls was rife. Agenda setting theory was adopted to frame the study. The study concluded that both newspapers adequately reported cases of child abuse. However, The Punch newspaper reported cases of child abuse more than the Guardian newspapers by featuring some news stories on the subject on its front page in some editions.

Keywords: The Media, Child Abuse, The Punch Newspaper, The Guardian Newspaper

Introduction

The role and status of journalism had undergone changes over the last two decades with the advent of digital technology and the modes with which news are published on the internet, creating a shift in the use of print media, as people increasingly access news through e-readers, smartphones, and other electronic devices. These changes challenge news organizations to fully monetize their digital wing

as well as improvise on the context in which they publish news. Compactness in coverage has been linked to broad audience attrition, as a large majority of respondents in recent studies show changing preferences in news consumption. The digital era has also ushered in a new sort of journalism in which ordinary citizens play a greater role in the process of news making (with the rise of citizen journalism through the Internet). Using video camera

equipped smartphones, active citizens are now able to record footage of news events and upload them onto channels like YouTube. Meanwhile, easy access to news from a variety of online sources, like blogs and other social media resulted in readers being able to pick from a wider assortment of official and unofficial sources, instead of only from traditional media organizations.

However, mass media, especially newspaper, have been a viable tool to expose societal ills. Daramola (2014) opined that mass media are the vehicles for transmitting information to a large, heterogeneous and diversified audience. Mass media thus is viewed as “social organizations” which generate as well as disseminate information to the people. Fitting in the foregoing definitions are magazine, book, television, movies, recordings, the internet and newspapers. Newspapers have been regarded as one of the media outlets considered as the fastest and easiest way of disseminating information to the widely dispersed audience. In fact, information emanating from newspapers assists government in an effort to protect and fight for the right of children nationwide. Newspapers have also been regarded as tools to enlighten parents and guardians on how to nurture their children.

In 2003, Nigeria adopted the Child Rights Act, which provided for the protection of

children against discriminatory, harmful and exploitative practices. This groundbreaking law incorporated the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and, for the first time, provided a comprehensive framework for preventing and responding to violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation of children. A decade later more than 23 states had adopted this law. In practice, children are at risk of multiple violations of their rights, including violence, trafficking, exploitative labour, child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/Circumcision (FGM/C) (Adebola, 2020). Over 17.5 million children can be categorized as orphaned and vulnerable. Large numbers of children, including some as young as five, grapple with poverty, abuse and family breakdown, and end up on the streets. Children living and working on the streets are more prone to illnesses, accidents, drug abuse, arrest, harassment and trafficking than those who lived in Government reserved areas (GRAs) (Liman et al, 2020).

In Northern Nigeria, the case is even deplorable as many of the street children are Almajiri - young children sent out from their homes to receive a traditional Koranic education, but whose teachers often make them beg or carry out menial jobs (Adekunte et al, 2024) Negative mishandling of children continues in this part of the country as child marriage becomes highly prevalent despite

legislations and policies prohibiting female genital mutilation, or cutting (FGM/C). Child abuse has become a problematic issue in Nigeria as millions of Nigerian children face the problem in appalling circumstances. This problem has not only affected the survival of the children, but created a formidable obstacle for holistic development of the Nigerian child.

The problem of child abuse is a disturbing issue in Nigerian society. If the problem is not critically addressed, it may create a lot of damage to the society. The problem will affect both the society and the future lives of the teenagers involved. Hence, there is a need for continuous advocacy against child abuse through research and information sharing of its adverse effect on the society.

Statement of the Problem

Many nations with child abuse laws consider the deliberate infliction of serious injuries or actions that place the child at obvious risk of serious injury or death to be illegal. Multiple injuries or fractures at different stages of healing can raise suspicion of abuse (Ada & Anake (2015). Physical abuse can come in many forms, although the distinction between child discipline and abuse is often poorly defined. Whichever way child abuse is defined, it is inimical to the ideal development of a child. Okunla and Ojo (2012,

p.75), argued that if child abuse would be taken seriously in our society, the contemporary mass media (radio, television, newspaper, and magazine) with the capacity of reaching large heterogeneous audience, ought to inform, educate and sensitize people about the detriment of child abuse, especially in Nigeria. This study therefore sought to find out the extent to which newspaper reportage on child abuse has assisted in the campaign against child abuse in Nigeria.

This study addressed the following research questions:

1. To what extent did *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers covered Child abuse cases in Nigeria?
2. What is the level of prominence given by *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers in the reportage of Child abuse cases in Nigeria?
3. What is the direction used by *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers in reporting Child abuse cases in Nigeria?

Literature Review

The Concept of Child Abuse

Child abuse is generally defined as any act of commission or in the case of neglect, omission that endangers or impairs a child's physical, developmental and emotional wellbeing (Kossouh et al 2025). Child abuse encompasses physical, psychological, sexual abuse and

neglect. Denga and Denga (2007) also observed that child abuse is exposing children to painful and unwarranted suffering knowingly or unknowingly. Both male and female children are abused in some cases by their parents, guardians, teachers, peers and the society in various forms. Kimberly (2001) reported that a child is vulnerable to extreme maltreatment such as child scolding, prostitution and hard labour. Female children who are between the ages of seven and thirteen experience sexual abuse than male children of any age variation. Some of these children live with their parents, step parents, single mothers with cohabiting male partners, abusive parents and substance abusive family member, who, out of aggression, abuse their own children (Ifayomi et al, 2024).

Abusive behaviour is transmitted across generations with studies showing that some 30% of abused children became abusive parents (Okunola & Ojo, 2012). Children who experience abuse and violence may adopt abusive tendencies as a model for parenting their own children; parents who cannot differentiate between discipline and abuse also abuse their own children. The potential for maltreatment exists in all social strata and every family at some points in a child's development. Child abuse results from a complex combination of personal, social and cultural factors. It can be caused by inter-

generational transmission of violence, social isolation, and low community involvement.

Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) adopted by the United Nations in 1989 exhorts signatories to take "all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child". Similarly, the United Nations International Committee on the Rights of the Child has emphasized the importance of member countries prohibiting all forms of physical punishment and degrading treatment of children.

Nonetheless, for various social and cultural reasons, children and adolescents suffer violence at home, in school, at work and in the community. Thus, children and adolescents are abused precisely in those spaces and places that should offer them protection, affection, developmental stimulation, shelter and promotion for their rights. One of the factors that make them highly vulnerable is their lack of autonomy due to their young age and the consequent high level of emotional, economic and social dependency on adults or institutions, which make it

difficult for them to put a stop to the abuse, request help or report the situation.

The Media and Child Abuse

The media has played a key role in the construction of child abuse as a major social problem (Onyejelem et al, 2025). From a largely unacknowledged issue prior to the 1960s, reportage on child abuse has now reached saturation point. Moreover, the issue has been covered across a range of genre (including news programmes, TV drama, films, call-in shows, soap operas) thereby reaching a diverse range of audiences. While acknowledging the importance of the media in raising awareness, a number of commentators have also noted that the media's interest is very recent and has generally relied on others (e.g. activists, professional groups) to lay the groundwork. Rather than being in the vanguard, the media has generally brought up the rear. The groundwork for the recognition of child sexual abuse, for example, laid in early activities by feminists and survivors, and involved international links within the women's movement across the world.

Media representations of sexual abuse not only transformed public knowledge, but also had profound implications for 'private' knowledge. Kitzinger (2004) found that, up until the mid-1980s, survivors of abuse

often struggled to make sense of what had been done to them within the inadequate conventional categories available to them at that time. Because of the culture of silence around incest, abused children and adult survivors had to process their experiences in an almost total cultural vacuum. They often had no words to define what was happening to them, other than the explanation offered by their abusers. However, from the 1980s onwards media representations began to provide victims of abuse with a framework for thinking and talking about their experiences.

Theoretical Framework

Agenda Setting Theory

The term agenda setting usually refers to the transfer of salience from mass media to audiences. The original model posits that if a particular issue is covered more frequently or prominently in news outlets audiences are more likely to attribute importance to the issue. McCombs and Shaw (1972) cited in Edelstein (1993) operationalized issue salience among audience members as judgments about the perceived importance of issues. Agenda setting also refers to the idea that there is a strong correlation between the emphasis that mass media place on certain issues (e.g., based on relative placement or amount of coverage) and the importance attributed to these

issues by mass audiences. Later studies replaced perceptions of importance with terms such as salience, awareness, attention, or concern (Edelstein, 1993).

Agenda setting theory states that the news media have a large influence on audiences, in terms of what stories to consider newsworthy and how much prominence and space to give them. Agenda setting theory's main postulate is salience transfer. Salience transfer is the ability of the news media to transfer issues of importance from their news media agendas to public agendas. Through their day-by-day selection and display of the news, editors and news directors focus our attention and influence our perceptions of what are the most important issues of the day. This ability to influence the salience of topics on the public agenda has come to be called the agenda setting role of the news media.

The agenda setting theory thus states that issues that receive prominent attention on the national news become the topics that the viewing public considers to be most important (Scheufele, 1999; Asemah & Edogoh, 2012). The agenda setting theory is relevant to this study in that the media set agenda for the public to follow and have the ability to influence what people think about. In this regard, it is expected that the newspaper reports on child abuse would have tremendous influence on effort

towards curtailing the menace in the society.

Methodology

This study employed content analysis research method to carry out the enquiry. Content analysis was used to content-analyze editions of the selected newspapers.

Study Population

The study population of this research work was the editions of two national dailies (*The Punch* and *The Guardian* Newspapers) on the coverage of child abuse in Nigeria during the August 1st, to October 31st, 2016. Each newspaper provides 92 editions, totaling 184 editions for the two selected newspapers.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The sample size is 184 editions of the two selected newspapers within the period of August 1st, to October 31st, 2016.

The sampling technique used for this research work is census sampling technique. A census study occurs if the entire population is very small or it is reasonable to include the entire population. It is called a census sample because data is gathered on every member of the population. According to Wimmer and Dominick (2011, p.438), census is an analysis in which the sample comprises every element of a population. Census is also the process of examining every member in a population (Wimmer & Dominick, 2011, p.87). It also

refers to the complete enumeration of the universe (Farooq, 2013). Sometimes, the entire population will be sufficiently small, and the researcher can include the entire population in the study.

In the case of this study, the populations are 92 editions for each newspaper totaling 184 for the two selected newspapers (*The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers). The researchers, therefore, selected all the 184 editions of the selected newspapers for adequate analysis and collection of data due to the relative and representative size of the population

Instruments of Data Collection

A coding sheet, specifically designed for the study, was used by the researchers to code the contents of the newspapers. The justification for the use of coding sheet in content analysis of this nature is as posited by Wimmer and Dominick(2011, p.160); it is easy and effective in the collection of manifest content of communication in line with the demand of this study.

Categories of Analysis

- Categories of analysis are categories system used to classify media content under investigation. For this study, the categories of the content of the newspapers are Frequency, Direction and Prominence which placement and space (Size, pages and column) of

stories on child abuse issues in Nigeria.

- Direction
- Prominence (placement)
- Frequency

Direction: This content category deals with the manner, angle, tone or language in which the stories were reported or covered on child abuse issues, whether it is in the positive, negative or balance/neutral direction. They are explained as follows:

- **Positive News stories:** These news content (News stories, features, opinion, letter to the editor, cartoons, editorials, photo news (pictures)on child abuse cases in Nigeria were reported in good or favourable way, especially, news contents that covered the arrest of people who are involved in abusing children.
- **Negative News stories:** These news contents (News stories, features, opinion, letter to the editor, cartoons, editorials, pictures etc.) show the coverage in which child abuse cases in Nigeria were reported from the bad or unfavourable way.
- **Balanced News stories:** Any story which has no particular inclinations as to whether it is positive or negative. Any item that are written without bias. The category also shows the news contents that have both positive and negative measures at the same time.

Prominence: This refers to the importance attached to the subject matter and the coverage given to child abuse issues in Nigeria in the selected newspapers. This also deals with pages on which the stories appeared.

Placement: This is the position of stories on different pages of newspaper like the front page, inside page and Back page. They are explained below as follows:

- i. **Front page:** The stories in the front page would be considered the most important compared to any other pages because it attracts attention and stories that are more pressing.
- ii. **Inside page:** Depending on its location (i.e. page), these stories are considered least important and trivial in nature. These stories begin from the second page to the inside back page.
- iii. **Back page:** the stories on the back page are considered important as well but not as important as stories on the front page.

Frequency: The frequency was measured by the amount or total number of news stories written on child abuse issues on both newspapers -*The punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers.

Units of Analysis

The coding sheet was designed to contain the units and categories of analysis with which the generated data were coded. The unit of analysis refers to the smallest element of a content analysis. In this study, the researchers identified and used only seven units of analysis, each unit was chosen because of the possibility of identifying the requisite coverage in each of them. The units of analysis are as follows:

- a. **News stories:** It is the news coverage of child abuse cases during the period under review.
- b. **Features:** This is the writing on child abuse from both in-house and out-side writers.
- c. **Opinions:** It has to do with views of people about child abuse found in these pages of newspapers.
- d. **Editorials:** This is the column where the opinion of the newspaper is explained on any issue.
- e. **Cartoons:** This is the relaxed, clearer and humorous way of commenting on news stories.
- f. **Letter to the editors:** The feedback mechanism that helps the newspaper to know how its readers react to it various coverage.
- g. **Photo News:** Images or pictures of either the abused child or people who are involved in abusing children.

Method of Data Collection

Two publications were used for the collection of relevant data:

The Punch and *The Guardian* newspapers. More so, it is of great importance to state that a plus sign (+) represents positive, a minus sign (-) represents negative and an asterisks (*) represents balance/neutral on the coding sheet.

Method of Data Analysis

Statistical tables, simple percentages and bar charts were adopted in analyzing the quantitative data gathered. The data were presented in tables according to the frequent count of occurrence of units in each category adopted. For research question one - To what extent

have *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers covered Child abuse cases in Nigeria? “**Frequency of reportage**” was adopted. For research question two, “**Prominence of reportage**” was adopted. While for research question three, “**Direction of reportage**” was used.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Research Question One: *To what extent did The Punch and The Guardian newspapers covered Child abuse cases in Nigeria?*

The data on table 3 and figure 1 are provided to answer research question one.

Table 3: Table showing the frequency of reports according to the two selected newspapers

Story type	The Punch	The Guardian
News stories	39 (79.6%)	34 (79.1%)
Features	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Opinion	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Editorial	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Cartoons	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Pictures	9 (18.4%)	8 (18.6%)
Letter-to-Editors	1 (2%)	0 (0%)
Total	49 (100%)	43 (100%)

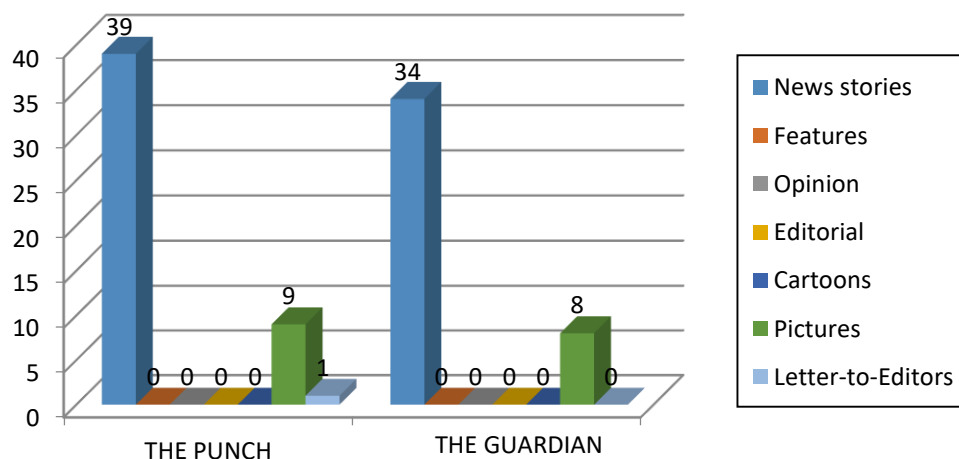


Figure 1: Figure showing distribution of reports according to the content categories for the selected Newspapers

The Data from the table 3 and figure 1 indicated the percentage and the sum of news contents reported by the two newspapers on child abuse issues within the study period. It also revealed the differences among the selected Newspapers in relation to their overall coverage of the same period.

The highest coverage was by *The Punch* with 39 news stories (79.6%), 9 Photo news(18.4%), 1 Letter-to-Editors(2%), while features, Opinions, Editorials, and cartoon are recorded void, all summed up to 49 (100%) news content. *The Guardian* takes the second position with 34 analysed news stories (79.1%), 8 Photo news(18.6%), 1 Opinion (2.3%), while Editorials, Letter-to-Editors, feature and cartoon are recorded void, all summed up to 43 (100%) news contents. Hence, the total sum of coverage of news contents by the two newspapers on child abuse issues was 92 news items.

The data from the table and chart above also showed the sum total of the news contents reported by the two newspapers on child abuse issues. It also revealed the differences among the news contents reported on *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers in relation to their overall coverage of the same period. The highest news contents on child abuse reportage, for

instance, was straight news stories with 73 (79.3%) news stories, Photo news has 17(18.5%) reports, Letter-to-the- Editors has (1.1%) reports Opinions has 1 (1.1%) reports, while no news content on child abuse issues was found in Cartoons, Features, and Editorials during the period under study.

The data on the table and chart above revealed the differences between the reports of *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers in relation to their overall coverage of the same period. Thus, it can be deduced from the data presented above that most news stories reported on child abuse featured as hard news. One would have expected that elucidation on child abuse which could shed light on child abuse would receive more space in editorial, features, opinion, and cartoons in the distribution of reportage on child abuse. Unfortunately, this is not the case. News story on child abuse is not sufficient to educate the public on prevention which can lead to total eradication of the menace.

Research Question Two: *What is the level of prominence given by The Punch and The Guardian newspapers to the reportage of Child abuse cases in Nigeria?*

The research question seeks to discover the prominence of news contents on child abuse

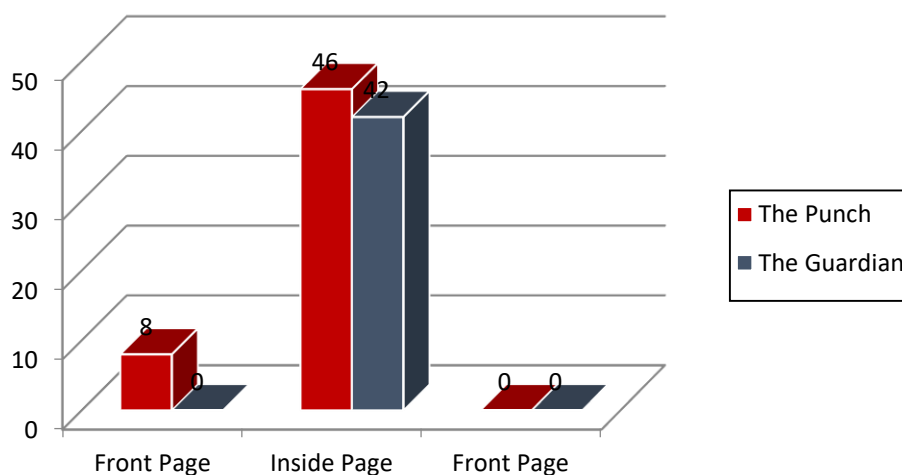
cases. Since newspaper editors place the most prominent lead stories on the front page, followed by the back page and others in the inside pages, it is only logical that

the most important news stories are placed sequentially on the front page followed by the back page and inside page.

Table 4: Table showing distribution of news contents according to placement of coverage in the two selected newspapers

Placement	<i>The Punch</i>	<i>The Guardian</i>
Front Page	8 (14.8%)	0 (0%)
Inside Page	46 (85.2%)	42 (100%)
Back Page	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Total	54 (100%)	42 (100%)

Figure 2: Chart showing distribution of news contents according to placement of coverage in the two selected newspapers.



Data from table 4 and figure 2 presented above show that in *The Punch* newspaper, 8 (14.8%) reports were published on the front page, 46 (85.2%) reports were published on the inside page, while no news content were published on the back page of the newspaper.

Furthermore, *The Guardian* Newspaper published 42 (100%) news contents in the inside page of the newspaper, while no news contents were published in the

front and back page of the newspaper. The analysis of the above data therefore revealed that based on the placement, *The Punch* newspaper attached high degree of prominence on child abuse issue considering the high number of reports on the front and in the inner pages of the newspaper, followed by *The Guardian* newspaper.

Research Question Three: *What is the direction used by The Punch*

and *The Guardian* newspapers in reporting child abuse cases in Nigeria?

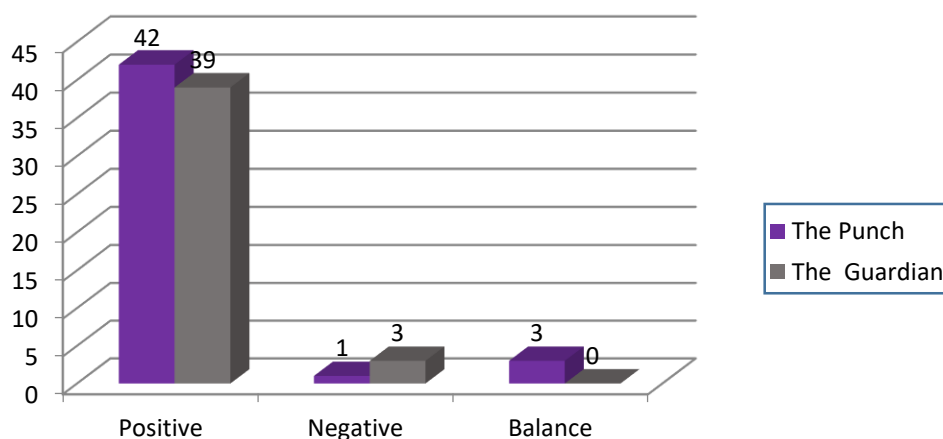
The research question sought to discover the direction of news contents given to child abuse cases by *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers. In an answering research question 3, the number of positive, negative and neutral reports on child abuse

were presented and analyzed. Positive news stories are news content on child abuse cases that are reported in a good or favourable way, while negative news stories are news coverage that portray child abuse in a bad or unfavourable way. Also, child abuse reports that are objective are neutral or balanced news.

Table 5: Distribution table showing the reports according to direction of coverage of the selected Newspapers

Direction	Newspapers	
	<i>The Punch</i>	<i>The Guardian</i>
Positive	42 (91.3%)	39 (92.9%)
Negative	1 (2.2%)	3 (7.1%)
Balance	3 (6.5%)	0 (0%)
Total	46(100%)	42(100%)

Figure 3: Chart showing the reports according to direction of coverage of the selected Newspapers



The data presented in table 5 and figure 3 revealed the angle from which the newspapers covered the child abuse related stories.

The data indicated that 42 (91.3%) of the news contents

published in *The Punch* newspaper were classified as positive reports, while 1 (2.2%) of the news content were classified as negative report; furthermore, (6.5%) of the news contents were neutral. Similarly, the data

revealed that *The Guardian* newspaper had 39 (92.9%) news contents as favourable news contents, also, 3 (7.1%) of the news contents as unfavourable, while there are no neutral news contents on child abuse issues in the newspapers during the selected period of study.

The data indicated that *The Punch* newspaper had favourable news contents on child abuse related issues with 42 (91.3%)

news contents followed by *The Guardian* newspaper with 39 (92.9%) news contents. *The Guardian* newspaper recorded the highest unfavourable news contents with 3 (7.1%) news contents, while *The Punch* newspaper recorded the least with 1 (2.2%) news content. Also, *The Punch* newspaper had 3 (6.5%) neutral news contents, while *The Guardian* newspaper had no neutral news stories.

Table 6: Distribution table showing the reports according to direction of coverage of the two selected Newspapers (*The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers)

Direction of News Contents	Frequency	Percentage
Positive	81	92%
Negative	4	4.6%
Neutral	3	3.4%
Total	88%	100%

Figure 4: Distribution of total news contents coverage on child abuse cases by *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers.

Based on the chart above, the two newspapers published 81 (92%) news contents that were favourable to child abuse issues in Nigeria. They published 4 (4.6%) news contents as negative reports, while 3 (3.4%) news contents were neutral. The results therefore indicated that the two selected newspapers (*The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers) published more positive news contents on child abuse. Kitlinger (2004, pp 36) explained that the media plays a critical role in the construction of child abuse as a major social problem. Based on

Kitlinger's observation, the two selected newspapers, even though they were unable to give much prominence to child abuse by not placing it on their front pages, more space was given to child abuse stories in their inside pages.

The study indicated that the two selected newspapers (*The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers) published more favourable news contents. The two selected newspapers made use of this favourable news reports so as to bring to the notice of the public the consequences attached to child abuse in Nigeria.

This serves as a measure in reducing the rate of child abuse in Nigeria. The findings in this study confirm the position of the Agenda setting theory of the press. Agenda setting theory states that the news media have a large influence on audiences, in terms of what stories to consider newsworthy and how much prominence and space to give them. It also postulates that the media dictates the topic of public discussion for the people. In response to this study, it is observed that the two selected newspapers gave more prominence to child abuse based on the frequency of their reports on child abuse cases in the society.

Furthermore, it is observed that *The Punch* newspaper published more stories of child abuse than *The Guardian* newspaper. It is therefore reasonable to assert that the newspapers perhaps set the stage for the current advocacy of child abuse in the society due to the frequently published stories on child abuse during the period under study. This empirical study therefore validates the proposition of the Agenda setting theory, and therefore strengthens the explanatory property of the theory.

Conclusion

From the analysis conducted on the coverage of child abuse cases in Nigeria using *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers, from August to October 2016, the

researchers concluded that *The Punch* newspaper reported and published more stories on child abuse cases than *The Guardian* newspaper within the period of research. The researchers concluded that of all different news items on the subject of child abuse were reported by *The Punch* and *The Guardian* newspapers, straight news dominated the columns of the two newspapers, while other news items such as editorials, opinions, feature stories, cartoons, pictures and letter-to-editors on the subject matter were not impressive. The two selected newspapers apparently reported cases of child abuse issues during the period under study with most stories occupying the inside pages; *The Punch* newspaper, however, had only 14.8% news stories on the subject of child abuse on its front page.

It is apparent that the newspapers under review majorly concerned themselves with reporting incidences of child abuse. The effort to educate and enlighten the public against child abuse was not their focus as less stories on child abuse were presented in editorials, opinions and features. Therefore, this study did not view the two newspapers as dutiful enough as to unpack child abuse to the public contrary to the position of Onyejelem et al, 2025). In order to educate the public about child abuse, especially, the right of a child to self-dignity and the rights

of children as enshrined in the constitution, journalists should publish articles on the subject in form of editorials and features, sharing life-stories of victims (while protecting the minors).

References

- Ada, P. A., Anake, P. M. (2015). Child Abuse and Students Academic Performance in Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State. European Centre for Research Training and Development Press. London, U.K.
- Adebola, O. (2020). The nexus between female genital mutilation and child marriage in Nigeria: A Cultural inhibition to Achieving sustainable development goals. *International Journal of Social Sciences*, 10(2), 1-8.
- Asemah, E. S. & Edegoh, L. O. (2012). Mass media agenda and conflict resolution in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria. *An International Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 1 (4), 112-129.
- Adekunte, P. A; Sadiku, M. N. O & Sadiku, J. O. (2024). The Almajiri system of education in Nigeria. *International Journal of Trend in Scientific Research and Development* 8(6), 407-413.
- Daramola, I. (2014). History and development of the Nigerian mass media. Rothan Press.
- Denga, D. I. & Denga, H. M. (2007). Child parenting in developing nations: Challenges and prospects. Rapid Educational Publishers Limited
- Eckenrode, J., Laird M., and Doris, J. (1991). *Maltreatment and Social Adjustment of School Children*. National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect. Grant 90CA1305. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC.
- Edelstein, A. S. (1993). Thinking about the criterion variable in agenda-setting. *Research Journal of Communication*, 43(2), 85-99.
- Franklin, B. and Parton, N. (1991) 'Media reporting of social work: a framework for analysis', in B. Franklin and N. Parton (eds.) *Social Work, the Media and Public Relations*. London: Routledge
- Ifeyomi, M; Ali, P; Ellis, K. (2024). Child sexual abuse in Nigeria: A systematic review. *Trauma, Violence and Abuse*. 25(5), 3597-3614.
- Kimberly, S. (2001). 'Article on Maltreated Children'. Retrieved from Online Available: <http://unesco.org>, 2001. Retrieved on August 1st, 2017
- Kossouh, E; Sossa, C; Kpatchavi, A and Aguemon, B. (2025). Determinants and consequences of sexual abuse against minors in Sub-Saharan Africa. *Journal of Public Health and Epidemiology*. 17 (1), 22-34.
- Liman, M.A; Idris, I.D; Alkali, M.A; Abdullahi, Y.M. (2020). Child poverty in Nigeria: causes and

consequences. International Journal for Studies on Children, Women, Elderly and Disabled, 11, 66-75.

Okunola R. A., Ojo M. O. (2012). Finding the Causal Relationship between Child Abuse and Teenage Pregnancy: Perspectives of the Crawford University Students in Nigeria. A thesis submitted to the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

Onyejelem, T. E; Abubakar, M.D; Ogunbola, O; Oyiza, E.B and Ridwan, M. (2025). Media representation of child abuse and its policy implications in Nigeria. Scientific Journal of Politics. 5(2), 67-78.

