

Newspaper Coverage of Child Trafficking In Nigeria by *the Punch, Nigerian Tribune and Daily Trust* (January 1st, 2019 – December 31st, 2019)

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Abstract: *This study is focused on Newspaper Coverage of Child Trafficking in Nigeria by the Punch, Nigerian Tribune and Daily Trust (January 1st, 2019 – December 31st, 2019). This paper made use of Qualitative research design and content analysis. The Punch and Nigerian Tribune newspapers between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2019 served as the population of this study. The purposive sampling technique was adopted in selecting The Punch and Nigerian Tribune for this study, systematic random sampling was used to select the issues in news stories, articles, editorials, opinions, features, cartoons, illustrations etcetera. The findings of the study revealed that the amount of space allocated to each story sample in the selected newspapers under study were below 10" which was small. Therefore, the Punch, Nigerian Tribune and Daily Trust newspapers covered issues of child trafficking in Nigeria to a low extent. It was recommended that the media should undertake more investigative reporting in order to unearth all the hidden issues that could assist in apprehending and punishing those behind this child trafficking.*

Keywords: Newspaper, Child Trafficking, Media, Media Coverage

Introduction

Human trafficking is a global problem. Every year, tens of thousands of women, men, and children fall into the hands of human traffickers. The NAP TIP and ILO findings appear to back with the African Centre for Advocate and Human Development's 2015 contribution to the 13th UN Crime Congress in Doha, Qatar (Doha Declaration 12 – 19 April 2015).

Human trafficking, particularly of children, has become a common occurrence and a worldwide problem. Human trafficking of children is a severe human rights violation. Human trafficking includes threats of employing force or other types of coercion, kidnapping, fraud, deception, misuse of power in a vulnerable position, and the providing or receiving of cash or benefits to get the permission of a person in charge of another person for the purpose of exploitation (Elujoba, 2018). According to the National Bureau of Statistics' 2017 multiple indicator cluster survey (MICS), child labor affects 50.8 percent of Nigerians aged 5 to 17, and global estimates from the International Labour Organization show that agriculture accounts for 71 percent of child labor, while labor remains a major driver of human trafficking in Nigeria (International Labour Organization).

The definition states, "Every human being under the age of 18 years, unless majority is attained earlier under the legislation relevant to the child." Although the majority of child protestors feel that 18 is still the "ideal" age for marking the end of childhood, the way this criterion is defined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) contradicts this (International Labour Organization, 2017). Anyone under the age of eighteen is referred to as a "child." "Any individual under the age of eighteen," according to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Particularly Women and Children (also known as the Palermo Protocol). This phrase is now widely recognized and used outside of these limits. Person trafficking is defined in Article (a) as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons for the purpose of exploitation through the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person (Umana, 2019)."

In Nigeria, child trafficking is referred to as "modern day slavery," and it has tarnished the country's image in Africa and around the world (source). Child trafficking has persisted in Nigeria, despite constitutional prohibitions forbidding slavery and forced labor. "Every individual is entitled to respect for his dignity," says Section 34(i) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. "No person shall be held in slavery or servitude; and no person shall be obliged to do forced or compulsory labor." There is no distinction in the penal code between what defines trafficking and the many types of trafficking. However, it does handle offenses such as prostitution and slavery trafficking from outside the country. Procuring women and girls for prostitution, for example, is against the law in Nigeria and elsewhere. Similarly, articles 278–280 of the Penal Code of the northern states ban and punish the purchasing and selling of children for immoral reasons, as well as the buying and selling of slaves and unlawful compulsory labor (Kane & Van de Glind, 2009).

In terms of constitutional provisions and government actions, the situation in Nigeria is diametrically opposed. For the past five years, Nigeria has been a source, transit, and destination country for women and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. It's also a destination for men who have been compelled to work. In Nigeria, trafficking victims are mostly recruited from rural areas, especially in the country's southern regions, and to a lesser extent from urban areas. Forced and bonded labor affects boys in street vending, domestic service, mining, stone quarrying, agriculture, textile manufacture, and begging while domestic slavery and sex trafficking affect women and girls.

The Hausa name for migrants is Almajiri. As in Al-mahajir, it could also refer to a pilgrim or wanderer. It's the name given to Hausa migrants looking for Quranic knowledge in villages, towns, and cities. This is a term used to describe children aged four to eighteen who leave their homes to seek Islamic education, particularly in northern Nigeria and West Africa. The Almajirai are classified into three groups: Gardi (adult), Titibiri (adolescent), and Kolo (child) (infant) (Mohammed, 2015). According to the schedule, the Almajiri educational system is divided into three classes: In her reports, Mubi divided the timetable into three categories: (a) Morning (5 a.m. - 11 a.m.), (b) Afternoon (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.), and (c) Night (2 p.m. - 4 p.m.) (7.00 pm - 10 pm). Though, according to Islamic history, the Al-Muhajirun (the Migrants), who created the Al-Ansar, were the first companions to migrate with the prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) from Mecca to Medina (the Helpers).

Statement of the Problem

Children of low-income earners in Nigeria frequently lack access to decent education, good health, and other fundamental needs, prompting their parents to commit their children to other family members who are financially stable to assist them in their training. However, because of the children's exposure to dangerous employment, prostitution, slavery, and other sorts of inhumane activity, this custom has been exploited by those family members or relatives. This crime poses a major threat to Nigerian society's economic, social, and political development. The state of the Nigerian economy has become a huge stumbling block to socio-economic progress and a good standard of living for Nigerian families, with many overlooking the importance of children in society. Children are tomorrow's future for each family and the country as a whole. In Yoruba, there is a proverb that states, "E yin l'ondi akuko" (A cock develops from an egg). The aforementioned aspect prompted parents to send their children to work in the hopes of improving the family's financial status.

Nigeria's government does not fully comply with the minimum standards for combating human trafficking. For example, the government must establish formal procedures for the return and reintegration of Nigerian victims to ensure that victims receive adequate care upon their return to Nigeria; investigate and prosecute government officials suspected of trafficking-related corruption and complicity in trafficking offenses; and fully integrate anti-trafficking responsibilities into the work of the Nigerian Police Force and the Ministry of Labor and Employment. As a result, the purpose of this research is to examine the coverage of child trafficking in three national daily. (From January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, *The Punch Nigerian Tribune* and *Daily Trust* newspapers).

Objectives of the Study

The Objectives of the study are as follows:

- (i) Determine the frequency of coverage given to child trafficking by *The Punch, Nigerian Tribune and Daily Trust Newspapers* from 1st January, 2019 and 31st December, 2019
- (ii) Ascertain the prominence given to child trafficking in *The Punch, Nigerian Tribune and Daily Trust Newspapers*.
- (iii) Find out the extent *The Punch Nigerian Tribune and Daily Trust Newspapers* sensitize the society about the ills of child trafficking in Nigeria.

Child Trafficking in Nigeria

Child trafficking for domestic labour, prostitution, and other forms of exploitative labor are all too widespread in Nigeria. Human trafficking is aided by the Nigerian context, which has been influenced by decades of military governments and has led in political, social, and economic issues. Nigeria has abundant natural resources, but political instability and widespread corruption have facilitated people trafficking and hindered progress toward poverty reduction. Nigeria is rife with corruption at all levels of society. According to a 2015 assessment by Human Rights Watch, "endemic public sector corruption continued to impair the enjoyment of social and economic rights in Nigeria." Human trafficking can also be facilitated by corruption, as it makes it simpler to transport victims between nations and across borders without being noticed or having to fill out paperwork. Human traffickers prey on families who are economically disempowered and disadvantaged and are attempting to exit a dangerous circumstance. Women and young girls are substantially more exposed to traffickers' tactics due to the feminization of poverty and discriminatory cultural norms⁸. The political system, which is characterized by institutional weakness and fragility, has fostered the growth of organized crime. According to the United States Trafficking in Person Report, "EUROPOL has classified Nigerian organized crime related to human trafficking as one of the top law enforcement challenges facing European states" (2015). The oil boom in the 1970s created chances for migration both within and outside the country, which led to

exploitation and international trafficking⁸. In recent years, human trafficking, particularly from Nigeria, has been a major cause of concern for law enforcement agencies across the EU. Nigerian human trafficking has been supplying the European sex market for decades. THB (Trafficking of Human Beings) from Nigeria has been highlighted by an increase in the number of Nigerian women entering mixed migrant flows to Italy (and, to a lesser degree, Spain). According to one international organization, "80 percent of all female Nigerian migrants in Italy are or will become sex trafficking victims" (Dagin, 2005). According to a foreign government report from 2015, Nigerian citizens are the most common trafficking victims in Europe, with the exception of internal trafficking within Europe. On the other hand, the majority of Nigerian trafficking victims in Europe come from Edo state, via Libya. Women and girls from IDP (internally displaced person) camps in North-East Nigeria are allegedly recruited by traffickers for purportedly respectable occupations in Italy, but are really exploited in prostitution in Italy¹⁰.

Causes of Child Trafficking in Nigeria

A variety of factors contribute to child trafficking in Nigeria. Poverty, shattered families, unemployment, greed, peer pressure, mental illness or imbalance, a weak legal framework, instability, stringent immigration rules, and law enforcement processes are just a few of the factors. One of the major factors contributing to child trafficking in Nigeria is poverty. This can be linked to extreme poverty, an unfavorable economic environment, unemployment, mass layoffs, underemployment, and a poor quality of life, all of which have led to parents who would otherwise be the most attentive and loving of parents ignoring and even mistreating their children (Onyemachi, 2010). Some families are living hand to mouth as a result of a lack of cash to maintain their families. Poverty is a major contributor to human trafficking, which should come as no surprise. The poor are more vulnerable in Nigeria, and therefore have more children as a social safety net. Parents, as expected, cite poverty and a lack of work opportunities as reasons for moving their children abroad. Poverty is neither a necessary nor sufficient motivation for trafficking because some parents sell their children to obtain clothing or jewelry rather than food. However, reducing poverty is necessary in the battle against human trafficking.

One critical thing to take to prevent these abuses is to focus on community employment. Some of the reasons are as follows:

Illiteracy: As a result, individual vulnerability to child trafficking grows, as one is less likely to benefit from any practical efforts taken to tackle the problem. When the twenty-first century began, nearly a billion people were unable to read or write. In Nigeria, over eight (8,000,000) million children are at risk of human trafficking and do not have access to education. When a person is educated, he gets enlightened, allowing him to understand the nature of any event or occurrence (Garba et al, 2016).

- **Unemployment:** People seek better pastures in another country by any means available when they are unemployed in their own country. Traffickers can readily entice someone who has no knowledge of other countries' economics with the promise of a better life. Some people will try to enter the country (neighboring country) by any means imaginable, including without having genuine documentation to pass through the embassy, due to a lack of sufficient knowledge prior to travel. Nigeria's unemployment rate has reached a position where it is climbing by a percentage point every day. Every year, a considerable number of universities produce jobless graduates.
- **Demand for Female Prostitution:** One of the factors that fosters child trafficking is the large market for buyers of human trafficking for sexual purposes. It goes without saying that child trafficking would not have expanded if there was no greater demand. Child traffickers are able to stay in business because there is a high demand for their services, and demand in any product's supply chain is tied to profit (Garba et al, 2016).
- **Broken Home:** In modern countries like Nigeria, a broken household is a serious and recurrent issue coming from the home environment, allowing child trafficking to thrive. As a result, combating the rise of child trafficking and the vulnerability of children to trafficking in today's culture necessitates a great deal of attention and investigation.

Consequences of Child Trafficking in Nigeria

- **Disease and Death:** Child trafficking can result in disease and death, which is a double whammy. Malnutrition, poverty, ignorance, child abandonment, therapeutic abuse, and ritual slaughter are all possible causes. According to Adedoyin's research, malnutrition and famine were the leading causes of death among children among the 39 disorders evaluated in Lagos in 1985. Furthermore, research focusing on juvenile agricultural labourers in Nigeria have found a high rate of injury, poor living conditions due to bad housing, limited access to clean water and food, poor sanitation, and low wages. Sickness and death are the eventual results.

- **Unwarranted Pregnancies:** Unwanted pregnancy is one of the consequences of child trafficking. This is the result of unprotected sexual contact. One of the concerns of child trafficking is that kids are subjected to various sorts of exploitation, such as rape, prostitution, and other forms of exploitation. In the course of forced prostitution, women and young girls become pregnant. Naturally, if the pregnancy is unwanted, the individual may feel compelled to abort it at any cost, even if it is to her detriment.
- **High School Drop Outs:** Human trafficking victims are subjected to various forms of labor exploitation, resulting in a decrease in the acquisition of human capital. In Nigeria, children have been exploited and forced to work in dangerous conditions such as mines, pesticides, chemicals, and heavy machinery. They work from nine to sixteen hours a day, with no breaks or days off in between. As a result, the child will very certainly grow up to be uneducated and underproductive. Child labor reduces adult productivity. As a result of poverty and parental ignorance, child trafficking leads to illiteracy and school dropouts. Several children drop out of school due to financial difficulties.

History of *The Punch* and *Nigerian Tribune* and *Daily Trust* Newspapers

The Punch

The *Punch* is a British newspaper published in London. One of Nigeria's most widely read daily newspapers was created by James Aboderin, an accountant, and Sam Amuka, a columnist and editor at the *Daily Times* of Nigeria. Amuka was the first editor of the *Sunday Punch*. In November 1976, a few years after the initial print of the *Sunday* edition, the team began printing their characteristic daily newspaper. Each issue was designed to provide news in a friendlier, apolitical manner, combining footage of social events with daily political news. The paper manages to stay afloat by delving into broad issues that appeal to a wide spectrum of people. During the late days of the Second Republic, political necessities caused problems with its original goals, and Aboderin and Amuka split up mostly due to political differences. Aboderin was able to enlist the aid of his former opponent, M. K. O. Abiola, when M. K. O. Abiola left the NPN. The daily began to take a political stance, particularly against the dictatorship of Shagari. A few *Punch* editors were supposedly informed of an approaching coup days before Shagari's administration ended and incorporated strong anti-government tones into their articles. Under the Companies Act of 1968, *Punch Nigeria Limited* was founded on August 8, 1970, to manufacture newspapers, journals, and other public-interest magazines. It was established to carry out the three fundamental functions of popular media: informing, educating, and entertaining Nigerians and the rest of the world.

Nigerian Tribune is a news organization in Nigeria.

The *Nigerian Tribune* is a newspaper published in Ibadan, Nigeria, in English. It is one of the most widely circulated newspapers in the United States. It was started in 1949 by Obafemi Awolowo and is the oldest surviving private Nigerian newspaper. During the colonial period, the journal served as a mouthpiece for Awolowo's populist welfare schemes. It was also critical in safeguarding the Yoruba people's interests during an era when numerous ethnic groups were fighting for control. From 1960 until the 1990s, the majority of the media was controlled by the government, although private newspapers such as the *Nigerian Tribune*, *The Punch*, *Vanguard*, and *The Guardian* continued to expose public and private problems despite government efforts to hide them. General Ibrahim Babangida once remarked that out of all Nigerian media, he would only read and evaluate the editorial part of the *Nigerian Tribune*. *Leadership Failure and Nigeria's Fading Hopes*, written by Femi Okurounmu, includes excerpts from a weekly column he published for the *Nigerian Tribune* from 2004 to 2009. The author, a patriotic Nigerian elder statesman, laments how successive leaders' dishonesty and greed have destroyed not only Nigerians' but the entire black race's ambitions.

As part of a series of personnel changes, the *Nigerian Tribune's* managing director and Editor-in-Chief, Segun Olatunji, resigned in December 2008, and the editor, Rauf Abiodun, resigned a few days later. Mrs. HID Awolowo, chairman of African Newspapers of Nigeria Ltd, the publisher of the *Nigerian Tribune*, has selected Sam Adesua as the new managing director/editor-in-chief. Edward Dickson, the editor of the daily paper, was appointed. The adjustments were believed to be part of a move to modernize the paper and expand beyond restricted Yoruba party politics in the face of competition from *The Westerner*, *The Nation*, and *Nigerian Compass*. In January 2011, the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) reacted angrily to a *Nigerian Tribune* editorial accusing the ACN of imposing its candidates in the approaching national elections party primary. According to an ACN spokesperson, the daily is a front for the People's Democratic Party (PDP).

History of *Daily Trust*

Daily Trust is the flagship publication (Newspaper) of Media Trust Limited, an Abuja - based media Company. The paper started with weekly *Trust* which was established in March 1998 and the *Daily Trust* was launched in January 2001. The two papers are the largest circulating newspapers in Northern Nigeria. The Company publishes five other titles: *Daily Trust* on Saturday, *Daily Trust* on Sunday, *Aminiya* (in Hausa Language) *Tamba* (Fashion,

Style & celebrity magazine and Kilimanjaro . The group of newspaper ranks among the top seven in Nigeria in advertising revenue.

The Media and Child Trafficking

The media is extremely important in enlightening and educating the public. The media in any democratic country plays a critical role in shaping, shaping, and reflecting public opinion. Over the course of the year, the media grew in influence to the point where it was dubbed the "Fourth Estate." Edmund Burke, a British philosopher and politician, properly defined it. The media has long been considered as a valuable tool for rallying a nation's entire population toward national development. The mass media, being an important part of the social system, is a vital stakeholder in Nigeria's long-term growth.

Furthermore, the mass media serves several generations and many specific functions. These functions, information, interpretation, instructive, bonding and dive functions:

- Information function – A need for information satisfactory curiosity, reduce uncertainty and bitter under how it fit into the world. The amount of information is now overwhelming compared to four years ago when a few television networks, local stations and newspapers competed to keep us in. The media saturation has led to increased communication and to provide information, which creates the potent for news media outlets.
- Interpretation function – Media outlets interpret messages in more or less explicit and ethical ways Newspaper editorials have long been explicit interpretations of current events and now cable television and radio personalities offer social, cultural and political commentary that is full of subjective interpretations. Although some of them operate in ethical gray areas because they use formats that make them seem like traditional news programs, most are open about their motives.
- Instructive function – Some media outlets exists to cultivate knowledge by teaching instead of just relaying information. Major news networks like CNN and BBC primarily serve the information function while cable news networks like Fox News and MSNBC serve a mixture of informational and interpretation functions. The in-depth coverage on National Public Radio and the Public Broadcasting service, and the more dramatized but still educational content of the History Channel, the National Geographic Channel and the Discovery Channel serve more instructive function.
- Bonding function – Media outlets can bring people closer together, which serves the bonding function. For example, people who share common values and interests can gather on online forums, and masses of people can be brought together while watching coverage of a tragic event like 9/11 or a deadly tornado outbreak.

Theoretical Framework

This study is centered on Agenda setting theory to be used to explain or interpret this theory is Agenda – Setting Theory which was propounded by Maxwell McCombs and Donald L. Shaw in 1972/1973. The following could be responsible for agenda setting:

- i. the number of times an issue is reported;
- ii. using headline and picture display strategies to play up a report in the media;
- iii. reports that give room for “points and counter points”.

The agenda – setting theory proposes that the facts which people know about public issues tend to be those which the mass media presents to them. Also, the significance which they ascribe to the same issues tend to be proportionate to the amount of attention given to the same issues in the media.

It is assumed that the media sets the agenda for our general discussion. The media may not always determine what we think but what we think about. Baran maintains that the theory propose that the public agenda or what kind of thing people discuss, think and worry about is powerfully shaped and directed by what the news media chose to publicize. Chaffe and Berger opined that agenda – setting is a good theory because:

- It has explanatory power because it explains why most people prioritize the same issues as important.
- It has predictive power because it predicts that if people are exposed to the same media, they will feel the same issues are important. Wimmer and Dominick argues that Agenda setting research examines the relationship between media priorities and audience priorities in the relative importance of news topics (U.S State Department’s Office, 2017).

Research Methodology

The design adopted for the study was Qualitative research design using content analysis. The Punch and Nigerian Tribune newspapers between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2019 served as the population of this study. The two newspapers were chosen because of their National coverage. The purposive sampling technique was adopted in selecting The Punch and Nigerian Tribune for this study, systematic random sampling was used to select the issues in news stories, articles, editorials, opinions, features, cartoons, illustrations etcetera. The instrument used in collecting the data was code sheet. The code sheet is used in systematic data collection for content analytical research. The data generated was presented in frequency distribution tables with raw figures and simple percentage analysis. The researcher used descriptive techniques, which was based on qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Data Analysis

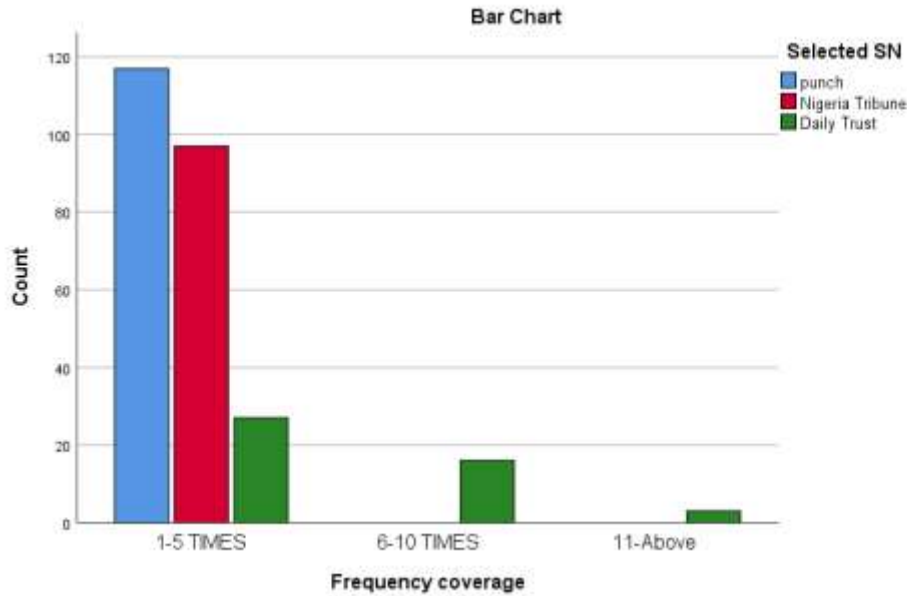
Table 1. Nature of Story

Count		Nature of Story			
		Selected newspaper		Total %	
Variables		PUNCH %	NIGERIATRIBUNE %		DAILY TRUST %
NEWS	110 41.8%	85 32.3%	37 14.1%	232 88.25%	
EDITORIAL/ OPINION	0 -	1 0.4%	4 1.5%	5 1.9%	
FEATURES/ARTICLES	4 1.5%	10 3.8%	8 3.0%	22 8.4%	
CARTOON/PICTURES	3 1.1%	1 0.4%	0 -	4 1.5%	
Total	117 44.5%	97 36.9%	49 18.6%	263 100%	

The data in the table above shows that a total of 263 issues were published on child trafficking in Nigeria by the three selected newspapers within the period under review. *Punch* newspaper published a total of 117 issues on child trafficking, *Nigerian Tribune* published 97 issues while *Daily Trust* published 49 issues. Of the 117 (44.5%) issues published by *Punch*, 110 (41.8%) were news stories, 4 (1.5%) were feature/article/letters and 3 (1.1%) were cartoons/pictures. For *Nigerian Tribune*, 85 (32.3%) were news stories, 1 (0.4%) was editorial/opinion, 10 (3.8%) were feature/article/letters and 1 (0.4%) was carton/pictures. While for *Daily Trust*, 37 (14.1%) were news stories, 4 (1.5%) was editorial/opinion, and 8 (3.0%) were features/article/letters. In all, there were a total of 232 (88.25%) news stories, 5 (1.9%) editorial/opinion, 22 (8.4%) feature/article/letters and 4 (1.5%) cartoons/pictures.

Research Question One: What is the frequency of coverage given to child trafficking by The *Punch*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *Daily Trust* newspapers?

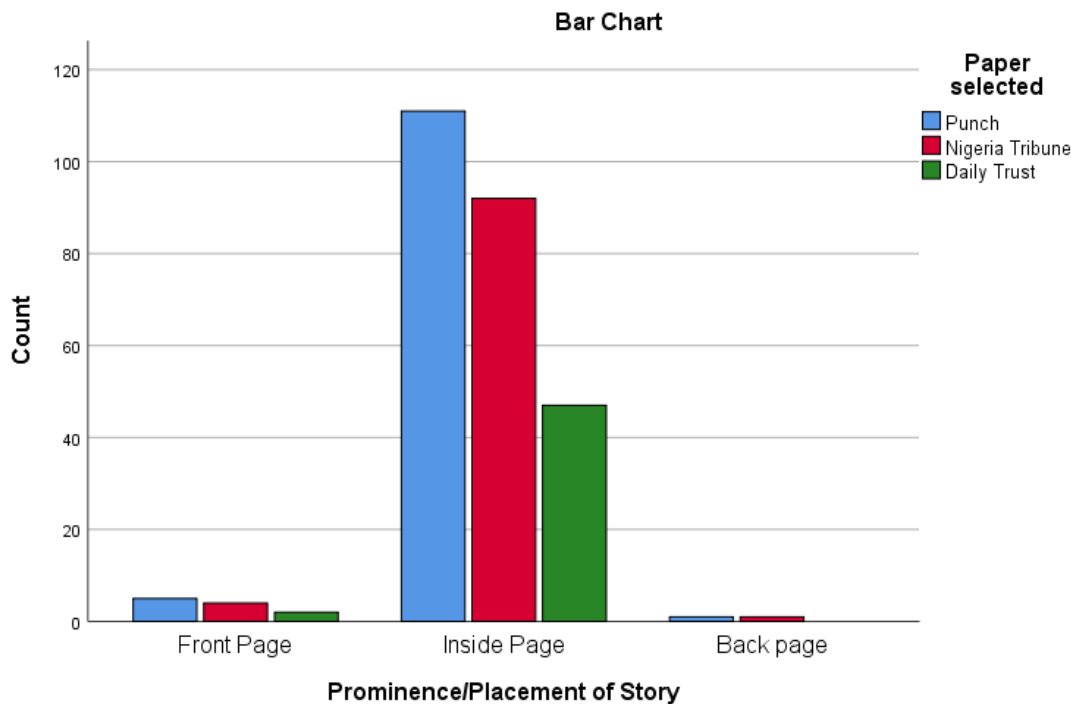
Based on the presented data, the frequency of coverage given to child trafficking by the *Punch*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *Daily Trust* newspapers showed that 263 stories on child trafficking in Nigeria were published 1-5 times in the three selected newspapers. *Punch* published 117 stories 1-5 times during the period under study, *Nigerian Tribune* published 97 stories 1-5 times during the period under study and *Daily Trust* published 27 stories 1-5 times during the period under study. No story was published 6-10 times and 11 times and above by *Punch* and *Nigerian Tribune* except from *Daily trust* that published 16 stories 6-10 times, and 3 stories 11-above during the period under study. The implication of this is that child trafficking in Nigeria was not adequately covered in the period under study by the selected newspapers.



Research Question Two: What prominence do child trafficking contents get in the three newspapers?

To analyze the prominence child trafficking contents got in the three selected newspapers, it was found that 11 stories were published in the front page, 250 were published in the inside page and 2 were published in the back page.

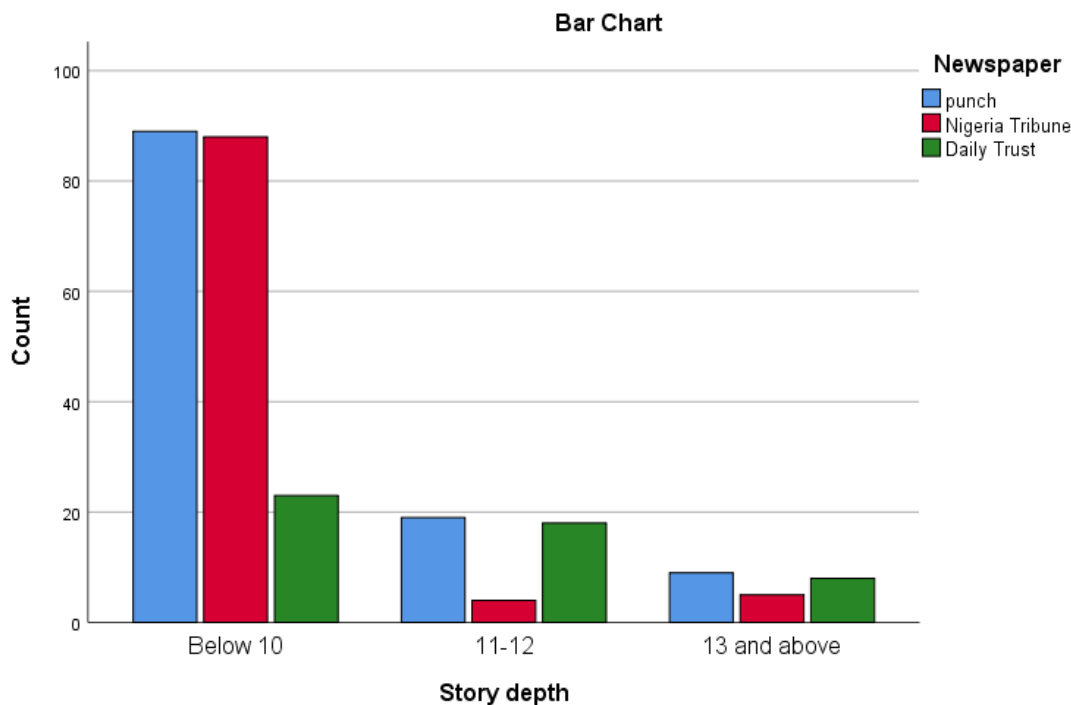
In *Punch*, 5 stories were published in the front page, 111 were published in the inside page and 1 was published on the back page. In *Nigerian Tribune*, 4 stories were published on the front page, 92 were published on the inside page and 1 was published in the back page, while in *Daily Trust*, 2 stories were published in the front page, 47 were published in the inside page and nothing was published on the back page. This implies that a low level of significance was given to stories on child trafficking in Nigeria by the selected newspapers.



Research Question Three: To what extent do *The Punch*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *Daily Trust* newspapers cover issues of child trafficking in Nigeria?

To analyse the depth of stories on child trafficking in Nigeria in the selected newspapers for this study, 200 stories were published below 10", 41 were published between 11-12 and 22 stories published were 13 and above in the selected newspapers.

In *Punch*, 89 stories were below 10", 19 stories were between 11-12" and 9 stories were 13 and above. In *Nigerian Tribune*, 88 stories were below 10", 4 stories were between 11-12" and 5 stories were 13 and above, while *Daily Trust*, 23 stories were below 10", 18 stories were between 11-12" and 8 stories were 13 and above. This implies that the amount of space allocated to each story sample in the selected newspapers under study were below 10" which was small. Therefore, the *Punch*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *Daily Trust* newspapers covered issues of child trafficking in Nigeria to a low extent.



Conclusion

It is a known fact that the agenda setting theory that behooves on the media and their ability to educate, sensitize and mobilize the people for actions and campaign against child trafficking is not adequately harassed. It is important to note that it is necessary, in order to effectively fight child trafficking to address the long list of factors that facilitates child trafficking in Nigeria such as poverty, limited educational opportunity, discrimination, tradition of child labor and fostering etc. The findings of the study revealed that the amount of space allocated to each story sample in the selected newspapers under study were below 10" which was small. Therefore, the *Punch*, *Nigerian Tribune* and *Daily Trust* newspapers covered issues of child trafficking in Nigeria to a low extent.

It is more heart breaking when the failure of this nation and up being destroyed in this immoral business and criminal activities. We need to come together as one Nigeria that we proclaim to fight child trafficking. According to the 2015 TIP Reports, the Government of Nigeria does not fully comply with the minimum standard and for the elimination of child trafficking.

Recommendations

Based on the findings in this study, the following recommendations were made:

- i. The media should undertake more investigative reporting in order to unearth all the hidden issues that could assist in apprehending and punishing those behind this child trafficking.
- ii. The security agencies should also be more proactive in discharge their respective assignments and to come up with a policy that will flush out rotten eggs in their midst and even wake up to their responsibilities in protecting the lives and property of the citizen.

- iii. The government should provide regular training to Police and Immigration officials to identify trafficking victims among vulnerable populations such as child, women in prostitution and young females travelling with non-family members.
- iv. The media should assign standby reports to monitor child trafficking and make it their statutory responsibility to report this issue on daily basis.

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