

**INFLUENCE OF NEWS CENSORSHIP ON THE PERFORMANCE OF MEDIA
HOUSES IN NIGERIA**

(A STUDY OF NASARAWA BROADCASTING SERVICE, LAFIA)

BY

ACHUEN, ALICE AGBO

MC/2009/390

**DEPARTMENT OF MASS COMMUNICATION
FACULTY OF MANAGEMENT AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
CARITAS UNIVERSITY
ENUGU, STATE**

AUGUST, 2013

TITLE PAGE

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS
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**IMPARTIAL FULLFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
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AUGUST, 2013

DECLARATION

I, Achuen Alice Agbo, hereby declare that this research work was written by me and has not been submitted or received anywhere for the purpose of acquiring a degree in Mass Communication.

.....

Achuen Alice Agbo

.....

Date

CERTIFICATION PAGE

I certify that this study was carried out by Achuen Alice Agbo. It was approved by the department of Mass Communication, Caritas University, Amorji-Nike, Enugu, as meeting the requirements for the award of Bachelor of Science, B.Sc. (Hons) Mass Communication.

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Date

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External Examiner

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Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to Almighty GOD, my parent Mr. & Mrs. S. Adamade, my aunties, my beloved sisters and brothers especially Justina .E. Adamade, my theola Johnson Ofonimeh and my lecturers especially my supervisor Dr. R. Acholonu.

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My gratitude goes to God for His immeasurable goodness, mercy, love and kindness to me, my family, friends, lecturers and course mates. Lord am grateful for seeing me through the period of my studies.

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to analysis the influence of News Censorship on the Performance of Media Houses in Nigeria. The aim of this study was achieved using the survey research method. Subjects were drawn from staff of Nasarawa Broadcasting service using the purposive sampling technique. Five research questions were used in the study. The findings of the study showed that, news censorship has negative influence on the performance media houses, news objectivity, accuracy and balance and on reporters and editors. However, recommendations were by the researchers that reporters and editors should be given the freedom to gather and disseminate news without prior and post censorship and self-censorship for the interest of the public and for news objectivity, accuracy and balance; which should be priority of every media house. However, this freedom should be matched with maximum responsibility to ensure continuous public and government trust in the media. The researcher suggested that further study should be made using more refined tools, larger sample size and another geographical area that will give the study a wider scope and empirical lift.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

The primary function of the mass media is to provide information, escapism, and entertainment, give self-worth and link different societies to other societies. (Ndolo, 2006). In any country, the media is expected to be the voice of the voiceless and to seek justice, which is the true nature of journalism.

The media, in the performance of its duty is expected to be neutral, objective and balanced. However, achieving this has proven to be difficult due to some factors, the most significant of all, being censorship of the media.

In Nigeria, as well as other developing countries, freedom is still elusive based on historical information. The media began without any definite statutory control. For instance, the first documented newspaper 'IweIroyin (1859)' was published without a laid down law by the state regulating the activities of publishers. Although this unregulated situation did not remain unchecked as the government grew increasingly unsettled by media content. It experienced occasional interruption by the then colonial government. This unrest increased with the emergence of nationalist papers and the need for media independence became inevitable.

Since the attainment of independence in 1960, the mass media have been attributed to extra-legal control measures imposed on them to restrict their social responsibilities. It was more felt during the military regime.

Since 1999, the role the media played in ushering in democracy cannot be over-emphasized as they helped to inform, educate and serve as watchdog over the society. In spite of this, it is obvious that the disposition of the society towards the media have not been favourable. Hence, there is need for this research, to find out the extent and influence of news censorship on the performance of media.

Historical Background of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service

In 1959, when the then premier of Western region of Nigeria established a broadcasting station. It has become the practice in Nigeria for states to own their broadcasting stations. Desirous of the need to provide social service by way of educating, enlightening, entertaining and informing the general public of government programmes and activities, the Nasarawa State government enacted an Edict No 19 of 1998, establishing Nasarawa Broadcasting Service NBS.

Nasarawa Broadcasting Service had its pioneers staff deployed from Plateau Radio and Television (PRTV) Jos. The station's name was suggested by this pioneering staff and endorsed by the first military administrator Late Wing Commander Abdullah Ibrahim. Nasarawa Broadcasting Service started transmission in February 1997 at the temporary state secretariat along Shendam Road Lafia.

Nasarawa Broadcasting Service is a two in one broadcast outfit (Radio and Television) and operates on a 2kilowatts transmitter (Itelco product) supplied by Kris OnyeKwuluje of Lagos. Nasarawa Broadcasting Service was found to be using the same frequency as Hot 93.5 FM in Abuja and was letter changed to 97.1 FM by NBC in 1997.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In many countries of the world, particularly the developing countries, the media have freedom to publish or broadcast whatever is in the best interest of the society. In developing countries like Nigeria, despite the fact that it has several laws, especially Section 39 Sub-Section (1) of 1999 constitution, which gave right to the media and stipulates that:

“Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression,
Including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and
Impact ideas and information without interference.”

In spite of what the constitution has stipulated, government and other influential individuals still infringe on those rights and hinder the delivery of news objectivity. The question this study seeks to answer is, how has news censorship by government influence the performance of Nasarawa State Broadcasting Service?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To find out the extent, reporters and editors at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service are faced with problems of news censorship.
2. To determine the various forms of news censorship at the Nasarawa Broadcasting Service.
3. To find out the reason behind the censorship of news at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service.
4. To find out how news censorship has affected the performance of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service with regards to the dissemination of news to its audience.
5. To proffer solutions to problems of news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service.

1.4 Research Questions

1. To what extent are reporters and editors at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service faced with the problem of news censorship?
2. What are the forms of news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?
3. What are the reasons behind the censorship of news at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?
4. How does news censorship affect the performance of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service in the dissemination of information to its audience?
5. What are the solutions to the problems of news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?

1.5 Scope of the Study

This study is limited to Nasarawa State Broadcasting Service. The study concentrated on the staff (reporters and editors) of this media house. The findings of this study could be generalized to include other government owned media houses, bearing in mind that Nasarawa Broadcasting Service is also a government owned media house.

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study stands to offer opportunity for the following group of people: media houses, government, journalists, lawmakers and mass communication students.

Through this study, the government will reconsider reasons that make objectivity and accuracy in news content imperative to the development of Nigeria. Journalist will see reasons

why self-censorship should be shunned and more importantly, media house will need to come up with credible and reliable news and information for the survival of the organization.

Law makers also will review laws that promote acts of news censorship, finally this study will act as a guide to students of mass communication undertaking study on similar work.

1.8 Operational Definition of Significant Terms

Mass Media: it is the channel through which information; news, opinion and others are disseminated around the world and received by the categories of mass media namely: electronic media which comprises of radio, television and internet and print media which includes newspaper, magazine, journals and books.

Censorship: It stands for monitoring spoken or written information that goes into the media of communication. And punishment meted for anybody who intend to inform without conforming to prescribed rules or procedures designed by ruling powers.

Control: The limitation of the freedom the media has in gathering and disseminating news.

News: anything timely that interest a number of people.

Influence: The power of news censorship on the performance of the media.

Broadcasting: it is the dissemination of messages and information over electronic media.

Performance: The ability of the media house (NBS) to gather and disseminate information accurately.

CHAPTER TWO

Literature Review

Introduction:

This chapter is concerned with the review of related study on the topic: “Influence of News Censorship on the Performance of Media Houses in Nigeria: (a Study of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service)”. The chapter is arranged under the following headings:

2.2 Review of concepts.

2.3 Review of related studies

2.4 Theoretical framework

2.5 Summary

2.2 Review of Concepts:

The following concepts were reviewed:

1. The concept of censorship
2. The concept of mass media
3. The concept of news

2.2.1 The Concept of Censorship

The definition of censorship just like any other term has been viewed differently by various people and scholars. Censorship in modern times could be the examination of radio programmes, news reports and other communication media for the purpose of altering or

suppressing part thought to be objectionable or offensive; which may be considered immoral, heretical, blasphemous, seditious and injurious to the society.

Wikipedia defines censorship, as a suppression of speech or other communication which may be considered objectionable, harmful, sensitive or inconvenient to the general body of people as determined by a government, media outlet or other controlling body. Censorship is seen as the control of information and ideas circulated within a society. Reichmann (1988) sees censorship as, the removal, suppression or restricted circulated literary, artistic or educational materials on the grounds that they are morally or otherwise objectionable in the light of standard applied by the censor.

In this way, the right to freedom of expression guaranteed by section 39 sub-sections (1) of 1999 constitution as stated below has been violated: “every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression including ideas and information without interference”. The media is not legally and constitutionally guaranteed to express freedom but the various Nigerian constitutions have always recognized the importance of the media under the clause that gives freedom of expression, beginning with the Independence constitution of 1963 to the Republican constitution of 1979 and then the present 1999 constitution. In the mist of this freedom there are still some restrictions like those stipulated by section 39(3) of 1999 constitution which empowers any law that is reasonable justifiable in a democratic society to prevent the disclosure of information received in confidence. Some of these legal limitations include the following: law of defamation, censorship, sedition and obscenity and so on.

The meter for measuring democracy and the tonic for self and national development is media freedom but what is this freedom? It is not freedom for journalist alone nor is it censorship

or restraint by only government; it is free flow of information and access to information without restraints.

Forms of Censorship

1. Prior censorship: this is when an information material is being banned, subjected to scrutiny or censored before publication. This may be done by the government or its agencies, publishers, organization, individuals, religious body or other association either by force or negotiations.
2. Post censorship: this is the censoring or banning of information materials after it has been published.
3. Self-censorship: this is when editors and reporters remove or suppress parts of news story they feel is objectionable.

Types of Censorship in the Nigerian Society

1. Moral censorship: this is the banning of news materials because they are morally objectionable to the various cultural norms in the society; knowing that Nigeria is a heterogeneous society.
2. Military censorship: in Nigeria this is the banning of information materials that tend to expose military tactics and national information for security reasons.
3. Religious censorship: in Nigeria two major religions dominate namely Christianity and Islam. This is the banning of information materials because they are religiously questionable.

4. Corporate censorship: it is the banning of information materials considered unfitting to a corporate body or its partners. In Nigeria this kind of censorship is rare as there are no much corporations with monopoly. Many of the public corporations are yet under government control. Hence the only monopoly is the government but fortunately to say it is democracy.
5. Political censorship: this occurs when the Nigerian government needs to keep secrets from its citizen in order to prevent disruption. Although democracy does not support this, yet in some circumstances it is necessary for the survival of the state calling to mind that Nigeria has always had the tendency of splitting.

Reasons Why Media Houses Practice News Censorship

1. Ownership: the ownership pattern of a media outfit tells how free and responsible it will be to the society. Both the private and government system of ownership have powerful influence on the media in social, political, economic and religious affairs of the society. If anything will make news censorship possible it is the management of the media outfit. Since they have the power to determine what goes into the media. According to Momoh (1997, p.7) “indeed the media system is controlled and influenced by the ruling class who use the media entrench and disseminate its own values.”
2. Intimidation and fear: this is a serious reason why news censorship is prevailing in our media houses today. Journalist, because of intimidation and fear may drop a news story, because they think it may not be in the interest of whoever he is writing about, the owner of the media house or the government.

3. Job security: every journalist has his life to live, personal demands to meet and to cope with economic difficulty characterized in our Nigerian society. To survive in this society, they tend to forfeit some professional ethics in order to meet these demands. A journalist cannot discharge his duty credibly if he is suffering from deprivation of the most basic human needs, thus since journalist appointment has been deeply politicized, it then becomes inevitable for media products to be just and balanced not censored.(Nicholas,2005).

4. Funding of the media: financial stability of a media house is proportional to the level of censorship it receives. If a media house has to depend on government or private body for its fund then censorship is inevitable.

5. Laziness and incompetence: when a journalist is not well trained he may not even know what is expected of him. Laziness also contributes to censorship of news stories, as some journalist may not even go out to cover a story and may not have the patience to write the story properly.

6. Ruling government: it has remained largely a difficult situation for media to balance its act, as at times persons critical of the government face reprisal. And top government officials after being exposed, resort to filing heavy suit against the media house just to make the media house spend from its lean resources and consequently removal of the journalist in question.

Reasons Why Government Indulge in Censorship

In Nigerian society the purpose of censorship varies. Some target materials deem to be indecent or obscene, heretical or blasphemous, seditious or treason. Therefore ideas are suppressed under the guise of protecting three basic social institutions; which is the family, religious institution and the government.

- Protection of minors: censoring inappropriate language and contents being screened on television at times when children are likely to still be awake is one of the numerous purposes why censorship is practiced in Nigeria. This is a beneficial censorship even if it is ineffective in practice.
- Social problems: there have been reports that associate aggressive behaviors in youths and adult with what they watch or hear on television or radio and how often they watch or hear them.
- National security: media contents are censored in order to check information that appears exposing or that leak government defense secrets.

Influence of News Censorship on Media Performance

- News objectivity and balance: the concept of objectivity in news reporting demands that facts must be presented as they are. It stresses that facts must be allowed to speak for themselves. Therefore objectivity imports faithfulness to fact. According to Nwabueze (2005), while quoting Kasoma: to get what could be described as a complete and encompassing presentation of the basic principles of good reporting. It is described as a guide or compass to stress free, hitch free and trouble free reporting. These principles are as follows:
 - Get the facts starting with who, what, when, where, why and if appropriate how.
 - Accuracy and precision; get it right don't guess.
 - Always double check from two or more source especially if it is controversial or might damage someone.
 - Always be fair, give both sides, and try to balance competing points of view so the reader, listener or viewer can judge for himself.

- Beware of all conflict of interest and omit biases. To do this, you must be honest with yourself on what your own biases are.
- Never let a person make you fearful.

Objectivity on the side of journalist implies that, journalist shall at all times be fair, accurate, unbiased and factual in the assessment and presentation of information and reports in the media. In Ngene's (2002) words "objectivity implies that journalist should keep their biases, opinion, view, philosophies and idiosyncrasies out of the news story. She further said that lack of objectivity in news reports leads to loss of media credibility, status, audience, advertisers and journalist morale.

One of the criteria in measuring a professional journalism is the observation of the ethics of journalism. Trust is the broadest word that encompasses accuracy, objectivity and fairness. Gilmore (1975) in Okunna (1995, p.43) explains that objectivity has a strong affinity with responsibility in mass communication and therefore it is the center of their profession. Objectivity essentially requires that journalist in reporting news should keep themselves out in their report by not injecting their emotions and personal opinion into the news stories. If the researcher is to use this attributes as parameter for measuring the objectivity of news censorship, the researcher will discover that broadcast media in Nigeria and NBS are grossly unobjective. One can understand that ethics requires fairness and balance in news reporting. The question as to whether censorship allows for objectivity and balances in news is left for individual opinion and shall be discovered in latter chapters.

Influence on Profession: censorship has lingering impact on the profession. It undermines the profession and reduces the practitioner to mere errand boy, because the practice of reporting only what you are been told to say makes the practitioner the mouthpiece of the ruling class instead of the society. Today, most practitioners and media houses now sideline their fundamental principles and ethics to practice self-censorship; which at the long run puts the profession and the society in jeopardy.

2.2.2 The Concept of Mass Media:

The term mass media according to Mc Quail (2000) in Ifedayo (2005, p.159) [...is shortened to describe means of communication that operates on a large scale, reaching and involving virtually everyone in the society to a greater or lesser degree. It refers to a number of media that are now long established and familiar such as television, radio, newspaper, magazine, film, and phonograph]. Mass media are channels of communication in a modern society, primarily the print and electronic media. Dennis Mc Quail went on to describe mass media as the organized means for communicating openly and at a distance to many receivers within a short space of time. The mass media encompasses the following: television, radio, newspaper, magazine, books, and movies which are impersonal communication channels and they reach large audience simultaneously within a short space of time.

The societal impact of mass media according to Murphy (1977) as cited by Ifedayo (2005, p.160) as oil, glue, and dynamite. As oil, media of communication keeps the world running smoothly by helping individuals adjust to the reality of their lives. The media in the words of Murphy “encourages order by reporting the misadventures of those

who transgress legal or social norms”. As glue, social cohesion is maintained by communication. Murphy contends that the media gives us all something to talk about by setting agenda of discussion. And finally, as dynamite the mass media could be harbinger of trouble, war or conflict. He cited the propaganda of Adolf Hitler amongst Germans. The mass media can also be that dynamite that can rip the society apart.

Function of Mass Media

The functions of mass media according to (Ifedayo, 2005) are as follows:

1. Servicing the political system: the news media are indispensable in a democratic society. They are fourth estate of the realm, independent, free and responsible to the public.
2. Safe guarding civil liberty: in order to prevent government from infringing civil liberty, the mass media plays role of a watchdog to warn the public whenever personal liberties are endangered.
3. Servicing the economic system: with the emergence of modern advertising, the function of the mass media in servicing the economy becomes relevant as various firms can now make their goods and services publicly known within a short space of time to a large audience.
4. Entertainment: this is one very important function of the mass media which is their ability to present messages that provide escapism and relaxation. The media provides relief from boredom, stimulates our emotions, help fill our leisure time keeps us company. It also exposes us to experience event we could not attend in person (Steinberg, 1997).

5. Power to influence: the mass media wield so much power as an institution. They are a means by which other institutions make their power felt. Their ability to spread message to multitude of people over larger territories makes them a source of power.

The media also performs the following functions to the society that are not mentioned by Ifedayo:

- To provide information to the people. Information that are fair, balance and objective in all forms.
- Agenda setting: the fact that the mass media are extremely influential gives them the capacity to dictate to the society what to think and how to think.
- The media educates the society by providing knowledge about things that have not been learnt or taught.
- The media integrates the society by drawing diverse cultural groups together to form one voice when it comes to issues of national interest.
- The mass media is custodian of the people's culture and norms.

2.2.3 The Concept of News:

The term news appears to be difficult to define. This is because no single definition can express all the various considerations. Philip Porter as far back as 1935 described news as anything timely that interest a number of people and best news is that which got the greatest interest from the large number of people.

Hulteng and Nelson (1971) in Onabajo (2000) view news as “anything that interests you, which you did not already know. Both elements are present typically in an

item of news". News is about recent happenings in the various societies; which may be local, national or international in outlook and which is disseminated in the interest of the public. Information has to be received for social equilibrium to be maintained. It is two-way communication channel from government to the governed and vice-versa.

News therefore is anything current, important and contains the entire element of news which is happening or about to happen.

Elements of News Worthiness

1. **Timeliness:** the immediacy of an event is the most significant factor in its relative news worthiness.
2. **Proximity:** this means the closeness in space i.e. in the geographical sense and closeness in mind; which is the psychological sense. It is a very strong determinant of the news worthiness of an event.
3. **Prominence:** events that concern prominent people are instantly considered news worthy i.e. presidents, ministers, politicians, business magnates etc.
4. **Consequence:** consumers of news have keen interest in events that have implication for their present or future.
5. **Oddity:** certain scenes of unusual occurrence such as accidents cannibalism etc are considered to be news worthy.

Sources of News

- **Correspondent reports:** correspondents visit their beats on daily basis to scout for news.

- Interview: this is the process of chatting with a personality either face to face or through a phone for the purpose of finding out and writing out something about an issue of public interest.
- Monitoring of other stations: not all stations can afford the luxury of sending correspondents to other parts of the world or country to cover events. Therefore they source their news by monitoring stations situated in these countries.
- Slated events: news is also sourced from slated events such as seminars; conference etc. pre-event invitations are extended to various stations or media houses. A reporter is then assigned and will be expected to file in stories.
- Roving: reporters are often assigned the responsibility to rove round the street to nose for news and cover them.
- News releases: news is sourced through press handout by organizations and various levels of government seeking publicity.
- International news agencies: various media houses also gather news from or through international news agencies based in various countries of interest.

2.3 Review of Related Studies

Two studies related to the present study were reviewed. They were:

- Press Censorship and its Impact in Print Houses. (A study of Nasarawa Newsday), by Shola Adebayo, 2006_ unpublished project.
- Press Censorship: A Hindrance to Smooth Journalism Practice in Nigeria. (A study of PUNCH Newspaper), by Abednego Ishaya, 2005.

2.3.1 Adebayo, S. (2006). Press Censorship and its Impact in Print Houses, (A study of Nasarawa Newsday) unpublished project.

The study by Shola Adebayo is geared towards highlighting the practice of censorship in print media houses and the extent at which it is practiced in print media houses. According to Shola censorship means the control of journalist and press men by physical attacks, query and warning for reporting some issues considered sensitive by some group of persons. The study in review is similar to the present study in that they both focused on censorship. Shola based his study on press censorship with particular attention to print media while this present study focused on news censorship in the broadcast media. Therefore both studies have different approaches to the problem of censorship.

2.3.2 Ishaya, A. (2005). Press censorship: A Hindrance to Smooth Journalistic Practice in Nigeria. (A Study of Punch Newspaper)

The study by Abednego Ishaya viewed censorship as an infringement on freedom of speech. Censorship is particularly discordant in relativity to freedom as that connotes that a specific group of people are deciding how we should view the world and what we should know about it. Censorship is likely to subdue media articles relating to a negative impression of the government, simply out of vanity than any sort of control. Any form of government control censorship on media is detrimental, because media is the artifact for the 'people' written by the 'people' not authoritarian parties. Media should be free to report the truth in all its ugliness whether it is suitable for the public to know or not.

Abednego went on to proffer solution that society need news policy to be written that put more trust in the people. The study in review and the present study used the same research design and sampling technique but have different focus.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

One key theories formed the foundation for this study. They were:

2.4.1. The Social Reasonability theory

Social responsibility theory combines freedom with responsibility to the society. This theory originated from an American initiative- the 1947 Hutchins commission on the freedom of the press. It believes that media practitioners should be given freedom to operate. However, makes it clear that media freedom from any control should not be at expense of the society's development or peace. Therefore every inch of freedom should be matched with equivalent responsibility, as the much trumpeted independent media does not exist anywhere.

This theory (Social Responsibility theories) are applicable to this study because, they charge media workers to be free and accountable to society for whatever they do.

2.5. Summary:

This chapter succeeded in reviewing the variables which are the concept censorship, concept of mass media and the concept of news in the study. It also reviewed two other studies related to the present study and examined two theories, the libertarian theory and the social responsibility theory relevant to the study.

CHAPTER THREE

Methodology

Introduction:

This chapter discussed the method used in the research. It contains explanation of the following: research design, population of study, sampling technique sample size, description of research instrument as well as method of data collection and analysis.

3.2 Research Design: This means the structuring of investigation aimed at identifying variables and their relationship, it is used for the purpose of obtaining data to enable the investigator test hypothesis or answer research question by providing procedural outline for conducting the study. Okaja (2003). This study therefore, adopted the survey method in data collection through questionnaire.

3.3 Population of the Study: population refers to the theoretical and hypothetical grouping or aggregation of all elements, as defined for a given study. Okoro (2001, p.56) as gathered from the net, the population of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service (NBS) is a hundred and one 101 staff.

3.4 Sampling Technique /Sample Size: this is a quantity or portion of something which has been selected as representative of the population or Universe of study. Okoro (2011, p.7). The sampling technique adopted in the study was the purposive sampling technique. The purposive sampling was used because the researcher had certain characteristics in mind that only this sampling technique could address. Therefore, the researcher purposively selected a sample size of 70 respondents from the entire population of 101 as the sample size for this study.

3.5 Description of Research Instrument:the study adopted the questionnaire as its data gathering instrument. Nnamdi, (1996) views questionnaire as a set of questions designed to gather information or data for analysis, the results of which are used to answer the research questions. Twenty two (22) items were drawn and administered to the respondents. These items were divided into two sections, ‘Section A’ contained items on the demography of respondents of respondent and ‘section B’ contained items that answered the questions.

- i. Items 1-6 answered question on the demography of the respondents.
- ii. Items 7-9 answered research question 1
- iii. Items 10-11 answered research question 2
- iv. Items 12-13 answered research question 3
- v. Items 14- 20 answered research question4
- vi. Items 21-22 answered research question5.

3.6 Validity of Data Gathering Instrument: - the questionnaire used for the study was thoroughly examined by the researcher’s supervisor for clarity, accuracy and comprehension.

3.7 Method of Data Collection: - Data was collected using the questionnaire which was administered face to face to the respondents by the researcher. Out of 70 copies of questionnaire distributed, 70 copies were retrieved. This represented a response rate of 100%

3.8 Method of Data Analysis: the data collected were presented in frequency tables and Simple Percentages which offers easy and clear understanding of the data by potential users.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

The purpose of this study was to determine the influence of news censorship on the performance of media houses in Nigeria. The chapter is concerned with the presentation and analysis of data collected through the use of questionnaire distributed to the respondents. Seventy copies of questionnaire were distributed and 70 copies were retrieved. This represented a response rate of 100%.

The study answered the following research questions.

1. To what extent are reporters and editors at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service faced with the problem of news censorship?
2. What are the forms of news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?
3. What are the reasons behind the censorship of news at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?
4. How does news censorship affect the performance of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service with regards to the dissemination of news to its audience?
5. What are the solutions to the problem of news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?

4.2 Analysis of Demographic Data

Items 1-6 in the questionnaire answered questions on the demography of the respondents.

Question 1: sex?

Table 1: Response to question?

Response	Frequency	percentage
Male	23	32.9%
Female	47	67.1%
Total	70	100%

On the table 1 above, 23 respondents (32.9%) were males, while 47 respondents (67.1%) were females.

Question 2: Age range?

Table 2: Response to question 2

Response	Frequency	Percentage
18-25	11	15.7%
26-45	39	55.7%
46-above	20	28.6%
Total	70	100%

On table2 above, 11 respondents (15.7%) fall within the age range of 18-25, 39 respondents (55%) fall within the age range of 26-45, 20 respondents (28.6%) falls within the age range of 46-above.

Question 3: Marital status?

Table 3: Response to question 3

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Married	27	38.6%
Single	43	61.4 %
Total	70	100%

On table3 above, 27 respondents (38.6%) are married, 43 respondents (61.4%) are single.

Question 4: Educational Qualifications?

Table 5: Response to question 4

Response	Frequency	Percentage
FSL/SSCE/GCE	0	0%
OND	22	31.43%
HND/B.sc/B.A	29	41.43%
M.sc/Ph.D.	19	27.14%
Total	70	100%

On table 4 above, response on educational qualification showed, no respondent had attained FSL/SSCE/GCE, 22 respondents (31.43%) had attained OND, 29 respondents (41.43%) had attained HND/B.Sc./BA and 19 respondents (27.14%) had attained M.sc/ Ph.D.

Question 5: How long have you worked in Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?

Table 5: Response to question 5

Response	Frequency	Percentage
1-4yrs	14	20%
5-9	24	34.3%
10 and above	32	45.7%
Total	70	100%

On table5 above, 14 respondents (20%) had worked for 1-4years, 24 respondents (34.3%) had worked for 5-9years and 32 respondents (45.7%) had worked for 10years and above.

Question 6: What cadre are you?

Table 6: Response to question 6

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Senior staff	29	41.4%
Junior staff	41	58.6%
Total	70	100%

On table 6 above, 29 respondents (41.4%) were senior staff, while 41 respondents (58.6%) were junior staff.

Analysis of Data from Survey Field

Research question 1: To what extent are reporters and editors at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service faced with the problem of news censorship? Items 7-9 were used to answer this question.

Question 7: Is censorship the suppression of speech or other communication which may be objectionable, harmful, sensitive or inconvenient to the general public as determined by a government, media outlet or other controlling body?

Table 7: Response to question 7.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	100%
No	0	0%
Total	70	100%

In response to the question 7 on the meaning of censorship, 70 respondents (100%) agreed with the meaning.

Question 8: Is news censorship practiced in Nasarawa Broadcasting Service (NBS)?

Table 8: Response to question 8

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	46	65.7%
No	24	34.3%
Total	70	100%

From the table 8 above, 46 respondents (65.7%) said yes news censorship is practiced in NBS, 24 respondents (34.3%) said No news censorship is not practiced in NBS.

Question 9: To what extent is news censored in Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?

Table 9: Response to question 9

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Always	24	34.3%
Sometimes	20	28.6%
Rarely	19	27.1%
Not at all	7	10%
Total	70	100%

In response to the above question 9, 24 respondents (34.3%) said always, 20 respondents (28.6%) said sometimes, 19 respondents (27.1%) said rarely, while 7 respondents (10%) said not at all.

Research question 2: what are the forms of news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?
Items 10-11 were used to answer this question.

Question 10: What form of news censorship is practiced in Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?

Table 10: Response to question 10

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Prior censorship	14	20%
Post censorship	15	21.4%
Self-censorship	20	28.6%
All of above	11	15.7%
No response	10	14.3%
Total	70	100%

On table 10 above, 14 respondent (20%) chose prior censorship, 15 Respondents (21.4%) chose post censorship, 20 respondents (28.6%) chose self-censorship, 11 respondents (15.7%) chose all of above and 10 respondent (14.3%) gave no response.

Question 11: which of the following measures have you experienced?

Table 11: Response to question 11

Response	frequency	percentage
Suppression/manipulation	19	27.1%
Monitoring/control	10	14.3%
All of above	27	38.6%
No response	14	20%
Total	70	100% ¹

On table 11 above, 19respondents (27.1%) had experienced suppression/manipulation, 10 respondent (14.3%) had experienced monitoring/control, 27respondent (38.6%) had experienced all of the above while 14respondent (20%) gave no response.

Research question3: what are the reasons behind the censorship of news at NBS? Items 12-13 were used to answer these questions.

Question 12? What is the reason given for new censorship in your organization?

Table 12: Response to question 12

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Nation security	26	37.14%
Protection of basic institution	19	27.14%
Organizations policy	7	10%
All of above	12	17.14%
None of above	6	8.6%
Total	70	100%

In response to the question 12 on the reason for news censorship at NBS 26 respondent (37.14%) chose national security, 19 respondent (27.14%) chose protection of basic institution, 7 respondent (10%) chose organization policy, 12 respondent (17.14%) chose all of above while 6 respondent (8.6%) gave no response.

Question 13: what do you think encourages news censorship among journalist?

Table 13: Response to question 13

Response	frequency	Percentage
Low salary	17	24.3%
Job security	35	50%
Ignorance	8	11.4%
No response	10	14.3%
Total	70	100%

From table13 above, 35 respondents (50%) indulged in news censorship because of job security, 17respondents (24.3%) do because of low salary, 8 respondents (11.4%) censor news out of ignorance, 10 respondents (14.3%) gave no response.

Research question 4: how does news censorship affect the performance of NBS in the dissemination of information to its audience? Items 14-20 answered these questions.

Question 14: do you think news censorship can affect the performance of a media house

Table 14: Response to question 14

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	45	64.3%
No	25	35.7%
Total	70	100%

On table 14 above, 45 respondents (64.3%) answered yes, news censorship can influence the performance of any media house while 15 respondents (35.7%) answered no.

Question 15: if yes, how?

Table 15: Response to question 15

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Positively	25	35.7%
Negatively	30	42.9%
No opinion	15	21.4%
Total	70	100%

From table15 above, 25 respondents (35.7%) held that news censorship has positive influence on the performance of any media house, 30respondents (42.9%)held that news censorship has negative influence while, 15 respondents (21.4%) held no opinion.

Question 16: Does news censorship in whatever form practiced influence objectivity and balance in news?

Table 16: response to question 16

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	55	78.6%
No	15	21.4%
Total	70	100%

In response to the question 16 above, 55 respondents (78.6%) answered yes, news censorship – can influence objectivity and balance in news and 25 respondents (21.4%) answered no.

Question 17: How does news censorship influence news objectivity and balance?

Table 17: Response to question 17

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Lowers credibility	20	28.6%
Misinforms	25	35.7%
Falsehood	23	32.9%
No comments	2	2.9%
Total	70	100

From table 17 above, 20 respondents (28.6%) described the influence of news censorship on news objectivity and as lowering news credibility, 25 respondents (35.7%) said news censorship misinforms the society, 23 respondents (32.9%) believe news censorship promotes falsehood in news while 2 respondents (2.9%) held no comment.

Question 18: has news censorship influence your performance in any way?

Table 18: Response to research question 18

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	60	85.7%
No	10	14.3%
Total	70	100%

On table 18 above, 60 respondents (85.7%) answered yes that news censorship has influenced their performance, while 10 respondents (14.3%) answered no.

Question 19: if yes, in what way?

Table 19: Response to question 19

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Demoralize	15	21.4%
Unprofessional	30	42.9%
Determination	15	21.4%
No comments	10	14.3%
Total	70	100%

From table 19 above, 15 respondents (21.4%) said news censorship demoralizes them, 30 respondents (42.9%) said news censorship make unprofessional, 15 respondents (21.4%) said news censorship give them determine, and 10 respondents (14.3%) held no comment.

Question 20: in the run long will be the effect of this social phenomenon?

Table 20: Response to question 20

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Violent reaction	15	21.4%
Retard growth of organization	27	38.6%
Organization's fall	21	30%
No comment	7	10%
Total	70	100%

From the table 20 above, 15 respondents (21.4%) said violent reaction from the people will be the long run effect of news censorship, 27 respondents (38.6%) said retard growth of the organization, 21 respondents (30%) said organization's fall, while 7 respondent (10%) held no comment.

Research question 5: what are the solutions to the problem of news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service? Items 21-22 were used to answer this question.

Question 21: would you suggest that news censorship should not be practiced no matter the reasons given?

Table 21: Response to question 21

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	29	41.4%
No	41	58.6%
Total	70	100%

On table 21 above, 29 respondents (41.4%) answered yes that news censorship should not be practiced no matter the reasons given, 41 respondents (58.6%) answered no that it should not be practiced.

Question 22: what steps should be taken to minimize news censorship?

Table 22: response to question 22

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Make new policies	15	21.4%
Increase salary	30	42.9%
Qualified journalist	25	35.7%
Total	70	100%

On the table 22 above, 15 respondents (21.4%) were of the view that new policies should be made minimize news censorship, 30 respondents (42.9%) said salary of journalist should be increased while, 25 respondents (35.7%) said qualified journalist should be employed.

4.2 Discussion of Finding

In this section the data collected from the survey on the topic “Influence of News Censorship on the performance of media houses in Nigeria (a study of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service)” would be discussed. The data contained in the fully completed copies of questionnaire retrieved from the seventy respondents would be discussed. Responses on research questions would be discussed.

Research question 1: to what extent are reporters and editors at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service faced with the problem of news censorship?

The aim of this research question was to find out the extent reporters and editors at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service are faced with the problem of news censorship. The data on tables 7, 8 and

9 were used to answer this research question.

The data on table 7 showed that, 70 respondents (100%) asserted the meaning of censorship.

Table 8 showed that, 46 respondents (65.7%) answered yes that news censorship is practiced at Nasaarawa Broadcasting Service while 24 respondents (34.3%) answered no.

Table 9 showed that, 24 respondents (34.3%) said news is always censored at NBS, 20 respondents (28.6%) said sometimes, 19 respondents (27.1%) said rarely; while 7 respondents (10%) said not at all.

From the above findings, it is obvious that all respondents knew the meaning of news censorship, and a good number of them affirm that news censorship is practiced in NBS.

Research question 2: what are the forms of news censorship at Nassarawa Broadcasting Service?

The aim of this research question is to find out the various forms of news censorship at NBS. The data on tables 10-11 answered this research question.

Table 10 showed that, 20 respondents (28.6%) practice self-censorship, 15 respondents (21.4%) said post censorship, 14 respondents(20%) said prior censorship, 11 respondents (15.7%) said all of the forms, while 10 respondents (14.3%) gave no response.

Table 11 showed that, 27 respondents (38.6%) had experienced all the measures of news censorship (monitoring/ control and suppression/ manipulation), 19 respondents (27.1%) had experienced suppression/manipulation, 14 respondents (20%) had never experienced none, 10respondents (14.3%) had experienced monitoring/control.

From the findings above, it was observed that journalist at NBS practice more of self-censorship and majority of them have experienced all the measures of news censorship. As according to Shola (2006) censorship is the control of journalist and press men by physical attacks, query and warning for reporting some issues consider sensitive by some group of persons.

Research question 3: What are the reasons behind news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?

The aim of this research question is to find out the reasons behind news censorship at NBS. The data on the tables 12 and 13 answered this research question.

Table 12 showed that 26 respondents (37.1%) gave national security as the reason behind the censoring of news at NBS, 19 respondents (27.1%) gave protection of basic institution of the society, 12 respondents (17.1%) gave all the named reasons, while 7 respondents (10%) gave organization's policy and 6 respondent (8.2%) gave no reason.

Table 13 showed that 35 respondents (50%) indulge in news censorship because of job security, 17 respondents (24.3%) do because of low remuneration, 10 respondents (14.3%) gave no response, while 8 respondents (11.4%) based their reason on ignorance.

From the findings above, it shows that majority of reporters and editors at NBS justify the censoring of news based on the following national security, protection of the basic institutions of the society in the words of Murphy (1977) in Ifedayo (2005) As dynamite the media could be harbinger of trouble, war, and conflict. This expresses the loop hole of the libertarian theory which desires to see the media enjoy maximum freedom and does not see the need for news censorship since humans are rational beings who distinguish between truth and

falsehood. Another reason is job security, low remuneration, according to Nicholas (2005) a journalist cannot discharge his duty credibly if he is suffering from deprivation of the most basic human needs, thus since journalist appointment has been deeply politicized, it then becomes inevitable for media products to be just balanced, not censored.

Research question 4: How does news censorship affect the performance of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service in the dissemination of information to its audience?

The aim of this research question is to find out how news censorship has affected the performance of NBS in the dissemination of information to its audience. The data on the tables 14, 15, 16 17 18, 19, and 20 answered this research question.

Table 14 showed that 45 respondents (64.3%) agreed that news censorship can affected the performance of any media house, while 25 respondents (35.7%) disagreed.

Table 15 showed 30 respondents (42.9%) held that news censorship has negative influence on the performance of any media house, 25 respondents (35.7%) said news censorship has negative effect, 15 respondents (21.4%) held no opinion.

Table 16 revealed that 55 respondents (78.6%) said news censorship influences objectivity accuracy and balance in news while 15 respondents (21.4%) said no it does not.

Table 17 showed that 25 respondents (35.7%) said news censorship misinforms the society, 23 respondents (32.7%) believes news censorship promotes falsehood in news, 20 respondents (28.6%) said it lowers credibility, and 2 respondents (2.9%) held no comment.

Table 18 showed that 60 respondents (85.7%) held that their performance has been influenced by news censorship, while 10 respondents (14.3%) held that it has not.

Table 19 showed that 30 respondents (42.9%) said news censorship makes them unprofessional, 15 respondents (21.4%) said it demoralizes them, 15 respondents (21.4%) said it gives them determination, and 10 respondents (14.3%) held no comment.

Table 20 showed, 27 respondents (38.6%) held that news censorship at the run long will cause media organization to suffer retard growth, 21 respondents (30%) said it will cause media organizations to fall in future, 15 respondents(21.4%) said it will lead to violent reaction from the people and 7 respondent (10%) held no comment.

From the findings above, it is obvious that news censorship influences the performance of any media house, news objectivity, accuracy and balance, and the performance of reporters and editors. Gilmore (1975) in Okunna (1995, p.43) explains that objectivity has a strong affinity with responsibility in mass communication and therefore it is Centre of their profession.... The absence of news censorship is good which is one the tenets of the libertarian theory. But the social responsibility theory holds that this freedom should be combined with responsibility to the society and not at the expense of the society's development or peace.

Research question 5: what are the solutions to the problem of news censorship at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service?

The aim of this research question is to proffer solutions to the news censorship at NBS. Items 21-22 answered this research question.

Table 21 showed that 41 respondents (58.6%) said no, news censorship should be practiced no matter the reasons given while 29 respondents (41.4%) said yes it should not be practiced.

Table 22 showed that 30 respondents(42.9%) proffered that to minimize news censorship salary of reporters and editors should be increased to make them self-sufficient and more ethical, 25 respondents (35.7%) said qualified reporters and editors should be employed and 15 respondents (21.4%) were of the view that new policy should be made.

From the findings above, a good number of the respondent held that news censorship should be practiced but to minimize its practice reporters and editors should be sufficiently remunerated, qualified journalist should be employed and news policy should be made. In the words of Nicholas, (2005) a journalist cannot discharge his duty credibly if his suffering from deprivation of the basic human needs, thus since journalist appointment has been politicized it then becomes inevitable for media products to be just and balanced, not censored. Therefore if they are to practice without censorship they have to match it with the tenets social responsibility theory which holds that every inch of freedom should be matched with equivalent responsibility, as the much trumpeted independent media does not exist anywhere.

CHAPTER FIVE

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

5.1 INTRODUCTION:

The objective of this study was to determine the “Influence of News Censorship on the Performance of Media Houses in Nigeria (a Study of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service Lafia). Survey research design was adopted, using the questionnaire for gathering of data. Sequel to the analysis of data and discussion of findings, this chapter presented the summary of findings, conclusion and recommendation.

5.2 Summary of Findings

The findings of this study showed that:

1. Censorship means the suppression of speech or other communication which may be objectionable, harmful, sensitive or inconvenient to the general public as determined by a government, media outlet or other controlling body.
2. The form of censorship most practiced is self-censorship and majority of reporters and editors at Nasarawa Broadcasting Service have experienced the measures of news censorship which are monitoring/control and suppression/manipulation of news stories.
3. The reasons given for news are centered on national security, protection of the basic institution of the society. However journalists indulge news censorship for reasons of job security, low salary and ignorance.
4. News censorship can influence the performance of any media house, the objectivity and balance of a news story by misinforming the society and leading to gross public mistrust of the media, the performance of journalist, bringing the profession into disrepute and also in the long run cause media house to suffer retard growth and the fall of the media house.

5. News censorship should not be discontinued no matter the reasons given. However, the steps proffered to minimize news censorship includes: increasing the salary of journalist to make them self- sufficient and more ethical, ensuring qualified journalist are employed.

5.3 Conclusion

This study has been able to demonstrate that news censorship is inevitable, as it has both positive and negative influence on the overall performance of any media house, news objectivity, accuracy and balance and the performance of journalist.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study the following recommendation was made:

1. News censorship should not be discontinued rather it should be minimized.
2. Media houses should employ qualified journalist who can practice in a professional way. While the practicing unqualified journalist should take on training in the profession.
3. Media houses should be well funded and employees should be sufficiently remunerated in order to curb the temptation of indulging in unethical practices such accepting brown envelopes, bribes, free bees etc to suppress news stories.
4. Government should give the media the benefit of doubt to perform their duty to the society without excess control through prior and post news censorship.

5.5 Suggestions for Further Studies

It is hoped that future researchers will improve on this study if further research is carried out, using more refined tools, a larger sample size and probably another geographical area, this will give the study a wider scope and empirical lift.

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Appendix A

Department of Mass Communication

Caritas University

Amorji-Nike

Emene

Enugu State

Dear Sir /Madam

I am a student of the above named institution and currently carrying out a research on “influence of News Censorship on the Performance of Media Houses in Nigeria. (A study of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service).

Please, your information is highly needed and shall be held in strict confidence for the purpose of this research which is an academic requirement for the award of B.Sc in mass communication. Thanks for your co-operation.

Yours faithfully

Achuen Alice Agbo

Appendix B

Questionnaire on: Influence of News Censorship on the Performance of Media Houses in Nigeria (Study of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service).

Instruction:

Please do not write your name on the questionnaire copy. Tick your correct answer in the appropriate box provided.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA

1. Sex: (A) male ()
(b) Female ()
2. Age range: (a) 18-25 ()
(b) 26-45 ()
(C) 46- above ()
3. Marital Status: (a) married ()
(b) Single ()
4. Educational Qualification (a) FSL/ SSCE /GCE ()
(b) OND ()
(c) HND/ B.SC/B.A ()
(d) MSC/PHD ()

5. How long have you worked in NBS?

(a) 1-4 years ()

(b) 5-9 years ()

(c) 10 and above ()

6. What cadre are you?

(a) Senior staff ()

(b) Junior Staff ()

SECTION "B"

7. Is censorship the suppression of speech or other communication which may be objectionable, harmful, sensitive or inconvenient to the general public as determined by a government, media outlet or other controlling body?

A yes ()

B No ()

8. Is news censorship practiced in Nasarawa Broadcasting Service (NBS)?

A Yes ()

B No ()

9. To what extent is news censorship practiced in Nasarawa Broadcast Service(NBS)?

A Always ()

B Sometimes ()

C Rarely ()

D Not at all. ()

10. What form of news censorship is practiced in Nasarawa Broadcasting Service (NBS)?

A Prior censorship ()

B Post censorship ()

C Self censorship ()

D All of the above ()

E No Response ()

11. Which of the following measures have you experienced?

A Suppression / Manipulation ()

B Monitoring /control ()

C All of the above ()

D No Reponse ()

12. What is the reason given for news censorship in your organization?

A National Security ()

B protection of basic institution ()

C organizations policy ()

D All of the above ()

E None of the above ()

13 what do you think encourages news censorship among reporters and editors?

A Low remuneration ()

B Job security ()

C Ignorance ()

D No Response ()

14. Do you think news censorship can influence the performance of any media house?

A Yes ()

B No ()

15. if yes, how?

A positively ()

B negatively ()

C No opinion ()

16. Does news censorship in whatever form practiced influence objectivity, accuracy and balance in news?

A Yes ()

B No ()

17. How does news censorship influence news objectivity, accuracy and balance?

A Low credibility ()

B Misinforms the society ()

C Falsehood ()

D No comment ()

18. Has news censorship influence your performance in any way?

A Yes ()

B No ()

19. If yes, in what way?

A Demoralized ()

B unprofessional ()

C Determination ()

D. No comment ()

20. In the long run, what do you think will be the effect of this social phenomenon?

A Violent reaction ()

B Retard growth of the organization ()

C organization's fall ()

D No comment ()

21. Would you suggest that news censorship should not be practiced on matter the reasons given?

A Yes

B No

22. If no, what step should be taken to minimize news censorship?

A. Make new policies to minimize the practice of news censorship ()

B. Increase the remuneration of reporters and editors ()

C. ensure qualified reporters and editors are employed ()