



THE NEW MEDIA, YOUTH MOBILIZATION AND INSECURITY IN NIGERIA.

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Article history:	Abstract:
<p>Received: 10th July 2021 Accepted: 20th July 2021 Published: 21th August 2021</p>	<p>The purpose of this work is to examine the relationship between the new media, youth mobilization and insecurity in Nigeria. The study was anchored on gratification theory (UGT) and Technological determinism theory (TDT) as its theoretical framework. The study adopted the survey research design, the sample size is one hundred and twenty (120); purposive sampling technique was used in the study drawn from the population of students of the faculty of social sciences of Ignatius Ajuru University of Education. The major instruments used in generating data for this study were questionnaires, observations and interview. The collected data were analyzed using simple percentages. The study findings are as follows: (i) That there's a relationship between the new media, youth mobilization and insecurity in Nigeria (ii) that facebook causes more insecurity than other social networks (iii) that the new media aid the youths to be much conscious of their environment and thus influences their decision (iv) that the new media serves as a tool for social change against corruption and bad governance. Based on the above, the following recommendations were made: (i) That there's need for transparency and good leadership to address the issues of the masses, (ii) the need for awareness campaign on the dangers of negative effects of the new media to national development (iii) government should sponsor criminologist and law enforcement agents abroad to be trained with new technological skills, (iv) that this research be extended and the scope broadens, deepened and widened. A number of references were finally made for further review.</p>

Keywords: New Media, Youth Mobilization, Insecurity and Cyber Criminality.

INTRODUCTION

The emerging role of new media in the youth mobilization, promotion of human rights education is well recognized and documented in the relevant literature. Information is power reasons been that the availability of information at ones' disposal helps one to be conscious of the happenings around the immediate environment, enforce decision about issues emanating from the information available at that time. It is generally believed that information rules the world. similarly, an uninformed person is a deformed person.

Access to information via the new media and mass media has succinctly become an intrinsic part of contemporary society. The new media is wired to collate information/data, dig out facts and figures, make sense of events and transmit the same to the public domain.

The mass communication media practice has over the years influenced and shaped the existing outdated technology for communication. The alteration from the medieval face-to-face interpersonal communication, town criers, non-verbal signals, early mechanical printing, radio, post office, television and handwritten text, to contemporary, digitalized, internets and satellites technology. Due to these emerging changes, the way communication practiced and the influence it brought to a large extent, is principally contingent on the available media technology at the communication experts' disposal (Uji, 2015, p. 14).

The prognosis on the influence of the new media in contemporary society is traceable to the Arab spring. Akikibofori, (2020); Abdul and Afzal, (2017); Abdullahi, (2012) opined that the Arab spring was classified by series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions which spread across the Arab world early 2010. This emanated in response to oppressive regime and low standard of living of citizens, especially in Tunisia, spreading to Egypt, Yemen, Libya, Bahrain and Syria (Akikibofori, 2020, p. 93; Abdullahi, 2012, p. 53). The new media was instrumental to the

removal or disposal of rulers namely: Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Muammar Gaddafi, Hosni Mubarak, and Ali Abdullah Saleh of the aforementioned countries between December, 17th 2010 to December, 31st 2012.

The uprising continued to persist leading to social violence, riots, street protests, civil wars and insurgencies in places like Morocco, Iraq, Algeria, Iranian Khuzesten, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, Sudan among others. Internal and external factors was penned to be the cause the uprisings namely: Human right abuse, authoritarianism, monarchy, political corruption, unemployment, inflation, poverty, sectarianism, demographic structural factors, kleptocracy and victimizations of various forms. The goal was targeted at democracy, free election, economic freedom, human rights, employment, change of oppressive regimes and Islamism. Studies revealed that emanating from the activities of youth mobilization in new media during the Arab spring over 61,000 deaths occurred and government accused app- creators of causing crimes and thus attempting to shut down communication of specific sites such as Facebook (Abdul & Afzal, 2017; Abdullahi, 2012).

In Nigeria, the new media was instrumental for the de-marketing and blackmail of the former President Goodluck Jonathan of the People Democratic Party (PDP) by the Buhari led government of the All Progressive Congress (APC) in the 2015 Presidential election.

Similarly, the new media is increasingly concerned about how, and to what social, economic and political ends, youth mobilization with the media. Hauge (2013) as cited in Uji, (2017, p. 27) opined that there is rising concerns on how youth mobilization mediates the environment online, fosters mass participation in digital environments, thereby examining the implications for youth mobilization through the new media. This study, therefore, was to critically examine the new media, youth mobilization and insecurity in Nigeria.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The mass communication media practice has over the years influenced and shaped the existing outdated technology for communication. The alteration from the medieval face-to-face interpersonal communication, town criers, non-verbal signals, early mechanical printing, radio, post office, television and handwritten text, to contemporary, digitalized, internets and satellites technology. Due to these emerging changes, the way communication practiced and the influence it brought to a large extent, is principally contingent on the available media technology at the communication experts' disposal (Akikibofori, 2020, p.86; Uji, 2015, p. 14).

Youths play a crucial role in every modern society as they are a force, dynamic source of innovations, and has over time rewritten history, participated, contributed as well as served as catalysts for social change in politics, economic opportunities, power-sharing like #Not too young to run campaigns of 2019. Arising from this, it is pertinent to examine how the new media impacts the issue of governance, insecurity, political mobilization by youths and nation-building. Uji, (2015); Titus- Fanne, Akpan & Moses (2013) identified two (2) major threats to new media positive influence on governance, thus making a difference in the national politics of states. First, that the truth is the new media are tools themselves and are actually ineffective in bringing needed change. Second, that this new media channel can produce more harm to the image of the country internationally to any process of democratization rather than the positive good (Uji, 2015, p. 27). For instance, when over 200 girls were abducted from Chibok in Borno state, Nigeria, the internet/online campaign emerged and hashtagged #Bringbackourgirls campaign of 2014; #Nottooyoungtorun campaign of 2019; #EndSars campaign of 2021; #Bringbackourboys campaign of 2021; and #Buharigohome campaign of April, 2021 has projected the country in a bad light among the comity of nations.

Studies reveal that governance has been influenced positively by the emerging new media through protests from anti-fuel subsidy protests of January 2012; bring back our girl protest in 2014 to END SARs protest of 2021 and currently #Buhari go home protest in London, UK of April 2021. To this end the study frown at the present government's deliberate attempt to silent the fundamental human rights as enshrined in the 1999 constitution as amended to wit: Freedom of speech. The study further sees the social media bills as draconic aid subjecting the wills of the people by the ruling class and political dissents.

To justify this assertion, as reported by the Guardian Newspaper on the 7th of June, 2021, that the Nigerian government on the 5th of June, 2021 officially put an indefinite ban on Twitter restricting it from operating in the country after the social media platform was deleted tweets made by the Nigerian President targeted at the South-East region of the country on possible genocide and war, this generated a mix reaction among Nigerian and the international communities as it violates the fundamental human right as enshrined even in the countries 1999 constitution. Similarly, the government further threatened to prosecute anyone who violates government orders. The paper further reports that the country lost over 7.5 billion naira due to the Twitter ban in just three days.

The new media has been able to expose the state of insecurity that exists in the country ranging from the issue of banditry, cult-violence, armed robbery, kidnapping, herdsmen-farmers conflicts among others: For instance: As evidenced in various media reports: On the 15th April 2020 in Basa area Plateau state suspected herdsmen killed at least nine (9) people and razed over 200 houses; On the 15th April 2020, in Tagina council of Jos Plateau state again herdsmen killed twelve (12) people and abducted many; In Kaduna state, on the 11th and 12th of May, 2020, herdsmen killed 17 people and displacing many others, it was the new media that revealed this as government always claim to be fake new in with glaring pictorial evidence. In view of the current trend, the government came up with the hate speech bill to curb the current trending negative dissemination of information through the new media, yet the issue persists.

Scholars like: Akikibofori, 2020; Nsude and Onwe, (2017); Uji, (2015); Olley & Ekharæfo, (2013); Aristotle, (2012); Adebayo, (2011); Asemah, (2011); Rosen, (2011); Wimmer & Dominick (2011); Olise, (2008); Baran, (1999) have written much on social media and youth mobilization, but none of them looked at new media, youth mobilization and insecurity in Nigeria; thus their study were inexhaustible. Therefore, this is the knowledge gap that exists in the works of the above-listed scholars of which the researcher intends to bridge.

In order to achieve the mission of this study, the following research questions were raised: (i) What is the relationship between the new media and youth mobilization? (ii) What is the relationship between new media and insecurity in the study? (iii) What are the forms of insecurity arising from the new media?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To fill the gap in knowledge, the study aims to achieve the following objectives:

- i. To examine the relationship between the new media and youth mobilization.
- ii. To examine the relationship between new media, youth and insecurity in Nigeria.
- iii. To examine forms of insecurity arising from the new media.

METHODOLOGY

The research methodology applied herein is the survey research design. It involves sampling the opinions of youths who use the internet. The research instrument used for the collection of data are structured questionnaires and interviews as our primary source of data and the instrument were analyzed using simple percentages. The sample size is one hundred and twenty (120); a purposive sampling technique was used in the study. The population of the study was students in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Ignatius Ajuru University of Education, Rumuolemeni, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

The new media is known as the generic terminology for ICT platforms characterized by the convergence of computer and telecommunication technologies (Adebayo, 2017). This comprises what can be termed as new media technologies, social media and web-based applications. Consequently, in most cases, it is tagged Web 2.0 media, comprising various micro and macro blogs, social bookmarking, wikis, photo-presentation sharing, and syndication services. According to Adebayo (2017), the new media is characterized by the utilization of various communication and information technology through the internet (p. 58). Some of the major features of the emerging new media are decentralization and democratization of information resources, enhanced dialogues, and erosion of traditional gate-keeping and agenda-setting functionality. Scholar like: Akikibofori, (2020); Adebayo, (2017); Wilson & Murby, (2010); Gillin (2009); Olise, (2008) views the new media as an influencer owing to the role it plays in creating brands and promoting engagement of corporate organizations. Notably, other peculiarities of the new media are the interactivity, speed, user-generated content, and multi-directionality of 'information explosion' as well as 'new information society' phenomenon, the new media ushers in what has been described as 'we media' or 'mobilization /participatory media' generation in which those who are traditionally referred to as 'audiences' in communication studies have become significant 'participants' in the news and information process (Adebayo, 2017, p.58). Similarly, Wilson and Murby, (2010) noted that the combination of these characteristics has culminated to the optimism that the new media is creating a new ecosystem.

Scholars of the new media view it with considerable optimism on many sides. From the marketing point of view, Adebayo (2017); Gillin (2009) sees them as 'new influencers', because of their role in brand creating and promoting engagement of corporate organizations and their clients in numerous ways not experienced before. This is derived from their pervasiveness and capacity to facilitate new approaches of connecting business with clients. Blanchard (2011) opined that in a globalized age it is imperative for commercial organizations to maximize the power of the 'new media and viral technologies to super-change customer service. Adebayo (2017) noted that within the domain of politics, the new media, became a critical tool for victory most importantly when examining it role in the emergence of Barack Obama as President of the United States of America, with the help of digital influence.

The optimistic disposition on the new media in politics and marketing has also been transferred to health and social development. Some digital communication experts and development organizations argue that the new media could play a major role in social development interventions. For instance, an analysis on the use of social media within the United Nation context notes that the integration of web and mobile technologies can transform the monologue associated with traditional broadcast media into social dialogue with the potentials of promoting the democratization of information. Eventually, this is expected to transform various categories of people from content consumers to content producers (Adebayo 2017; United Nation 2010). Furthermore, it is argued that through multiple platforms, including text, images, audio, and video, the new media is capable of promoting public engagement for social development.

Adebayo (2017, p. 58); Wilson and Murby (2010, p. 33) argue that the merger of social media and communication into new media is changing a vital part of life. They argued that with many people blogging, tweeting, uploading, downloading, crowd-sourcing, wiki-ing, linking in, geo-referencing, i-chatting, skypeing, flipping, videotaping among others, a new social enterprise is being facilitated. The US Center for Disease Control (CDC 2010) buttresses the above conclusion because of the possibilities offered by the new media in providing access to credible and science-based health information systems that reach new audiences in dimensions not known hitherto.

Lefebvre (2007, p, 33) arguing for a new perspective on target audience within the context of new media, suggests that the new technology offers opportunities for health promotion professionals in engaging with their patients, customers and audiences through new media signals a shift in thinking about traditional methods of social marketing and communication for development. Adebayo (2017, p. 59); McNab (2009, p.1) notes that more than any time in history, social media offers timely, accessible and credible health information critical for improving public health outcomes with more people, more quickly and directly. Brodock, Joyce & Zaack (2009), in the area of advocacy and activism, opined that digital activism has increased due to improved economic capability and access to multiple social media platforms. The authors argue that with increased access to various new media formats, more people are becoming digital activists and mobilizing public will for diverse social actions and challenges.

However, several scholars treat the new media with caution and skepticism because of the weak evidence of their impact on social and political development. As Lefebvre (2011) identified what he calls major fictions on the use of social media for health, including the fact the new media is uniform, that users are prepared to be changed through the use of their platforms and that every social challenge are amendable to new media influence.

Furtherance to the above assertion, Adebayo (2017); Lefebvre (2011); Jessen (2008) argued that YouTube is a source of health misinformation. While noting that the internet helps in cultivating a new level of knowledge and health-seeking behaviour in clients, the above scholars conclude that the internet also contains an equal or greater amount of misinformation. To Adebayo (2017, p.59); Beuerlein (2009, p.15) in his analysis on the dumbest generation, challenged the notion that the new media improves education and argues that some aspects of the new media have negative effects on the educational attainment of users, especially among the youths. To them, the cyberculture young people especially at the developed countries like Americas, thereby turning them into 'knowing nothing'. Moreover, the major setback is in relation to the abuse of children through various new media formats and tools. Empirical evidence from different countries has shown that apart from access to inappropriate content for specific age groups, youths are victims of cybercrimes such as cyber-bullying, internet addiction, and internet crimes against children (Akikibofori, 2020; Nsude & Onwe, 2017; Adebayo, 2017; Uji, 2015; Titus-Fannie, Akpan, & Moses, 2013; Lefebvre, 2011; Ikpe & Olise, 2010; Beuerlein, 2009; Brodock, Joyce & Zaack, 2009; Longe & Longe, 2009).

Morozov (2011) studies within the context of political development and change, cautions against what he calls 'cyber utopianism and internet-centrism'. According to him, the expectation of digital utopians that the internet would drive political change in a number of authoritarian countries has not taken place. Although, this finding seems contrary to extant political changes in the Arab world, which many social commentators have argued was fueled and promoted by the new media. While other observers have referred to it as the 'Twitter revolution' (Adebayo, 2017, p.59), others have dismissed the role of the new media in the process (Gladwell, 2011), concluding that social media cannot cause a revolution. The role of technology as a major driver of social change, national development and organizational development is well established (Ikpe & Olise 2010; Lievrouw & Livingstone 2006), but a critical point needs to be made that people, more than technology are the drivers of change.

To conclude this section, the convergence of computer and telecommunication technologies into new media platforms has radically shifted several aspects of human endeavor, necessitating the need to learn and use them much more effectively in society. But issues around their dysfunctions need to be taken into cognizance. Just as other media have their functions and dysfunctions, so it is with the new media. And while the optimism on the power of the new media is understood, the skepticism also has its place. A balanced analytical lens is needed in understanding and appreciating its role in the development and for the promotion of the human rights agenda in particular (Adebayo 2017, p.59).

THE NEW MEDIA AND YOUTH MOBILIZATION

Studies show that the emergence of the new media has contributed greatly to expand the limits of good governance, reportage of governmental lawlessness and abuse, the new media also serves as a medium to connect citizens with one another and empower them to hold government accountable (Akikibofori, 2020, p. 82; Uji, 2015, p. 29). Moreover, the new media serves as an avenue for doing online business and marketing as evidence in the current crypto-currency drive among developed nations a departure from the traditional pattern.

Scholars believe that the new media is relatively cheap, and it has become accessible and easy in information dissemination. It has further aid citizens to organize protest against government anti-people policy. The new media is prompt when it comes to crime reportage in form of i-report. With the emergence of new media, web developers and hi-tech savvy youths have developed various web and Applications to disseminate information, thus making their discovery to be readily available in the public domain and this creation has transformed many unemployed youths to be employers of labor, a good example of them Linda Ikeji Blog. The former President Jonathan was aware of this and signed the Freedom of information bill.

The epignosis of the use of new media actively in Nigerian political issues and governance was dated back to the 2011 general elections, when many politicians harnessed the new media skills of the youth for their election campaign strategies, via bulk text messaging, creating a new Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter. In 2011 as former president Jonathan declared intention to run for the office of the President in less than twenty days he has 100,000 followers on Facebook a feat which made him the second most liked president after US President Barack Hussein Obama (Uji, 2015, p.30). Regrettably, in 2014-2015, President Jonathan was the most insulted president and now US Ex-President Donald J. Trump by the same new media.

NEW MEDIA AND PARTICIPATION RIGHTS

Participation rights cover freedom of expression, freedom of association, and citizenship and holistic engagement of children. According to Article 12 (1) of CRC states that:

States Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her own views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child.

While there are several opportunities for youth mobilization and children's participation in the country, some traditional and institutional practices hinder the full enjoyment of this right. These include household dynamics, cultural practices, perception of children as always childish, suspicion of the notion of participation as a foreign idea, lack of a conducive environment for self-expression and institutional forces (Adabayo 2017; RIATT 2010). In addition, many of the interventional that promote child participation in development contexts (such as using children for a poetry recital, dances and for waving to high-level dignitaries) are tokenistic, window dressing, manipulative and decorative (Beers, Invernizzi, & Milne 2006). Arising from the theory of participation, this falls within the lower level of the ladder of participation, which indeed, is non-participation (Lansdown 2001).

Although the era of new media offers a major opportunity for promoting the participation rights of children and young people. One of the projects that enhanced participation is Voices of Youths on social issues. VOY is a global child participation project covering 35 countries including Nigeria. It is dedicated to harnessing the educational and community-building potential of internet technology in promoting child rights principles (Adebayo 2017, p. 60). Since its inception in 1995, children and adolescents in various parts of the country can connect, dialogue and network with other children in the world. Through the VOY project, 'children are able to media (UNICEF 2005, p.1) A rural version has been added to this programme resulting in RVOY which supports children and young people in rural areas through SMS, games, video, storytelling, email, and other forms of online communications, integrated into local media to promote their participation rights. With online dialogues, the contributions of rural voices are fed into national and international discussions. A preliminary assessment of the intervention confirmed that the new media contributed to some level of empowerment of rights holders to becoming 'chief advocates' of their rights. It also strengthened advocacy efforts with them, and by them not necessarily for them, as in the past. The use of the new media accentuated the voice and the image of the children with more children being seen and heard, different from the traditional context where children can only be seen and not heard (Adebayo 2017; Oluseyi 2010) VOY facilitated significant freedom of association, networking and consultation via various social media formats. It promoted freedom of expression, as young people had unfettered freedom to express themselves in their own language, on their terms and at the times of their choosing. Third, to a great extent, it strengthened their empowerment as active citizens and as advocates of their rights. In addition, the new media contributed to the narrowing of the digital divide between rural and urban youth concerning their participation rights.

Nevertheless, several commentators have identified some limitations in the approach. Azeez (2011) argues that 90% of Nigerian young people do not have access to ICT peripherals. This implies that they are unable to effectively maximize their participation rights through new media. Second, genuine and effective participation is not only a function of having access to the technology for communication. Other variables, such as what it is used for and the intended and unintended consequences of use are important too. Adebayo (2017); Azeez (2011); Oluseyi (2010); Beers et al (2006) and Lievrouw & Livingstone (2006) acknowledge that children and the youths use of new media is for entertainment, for chatting and for social networking, rather than other uses that can enhance their citizenship and holistic development. This raised the question around 'participation for what' which has been widely discussed in the literature on participation (Lansdown 2001; Bhandari 2005; Jonson 2003; Beers et al. 2006). This author also acknowledges the difficulty of youth mobilization and children's participation in public governance and policy influence in many African countries. But the use of new media for youth mobilization and child participation is perceived as an emerging element of engagement with policymakers, the real impact is yet to be seen.

NEW MEDIA AND THE PROVISION OF SERVICE FOR CHILDREN IN NIGERIA

According to Adebayo (2017), the provision of services is one of the fundamental rights in the child rights agenda. Among others, it encapsulates the provision of health, nutrition and education services. In contemporary communication for development practice, many development agencies are now using the new media to promote service provision for child health and development. For instance, the Nigerian government and various development partners have initiated the Rapid SMS programme for child survival and maternal health (p.61). In collaboration with private sector organizations, the Rapid SMS initiative is promoting maternal newborn and child health, the use of bed-nets for malaria prevention, vaccine logistics management, and birth registration. The advantages of the intervention include effective service delivery, tracking, monitoring and delivery of supplies which are essential for service uptake. A similar intervention has been undertaken in several African countries. In Rwanda, field experience showed that Rapid-SMS provided real-time access to details on maternal and child health. With Rapid-SMS it was possible to reach hard-to-reach pregnant women and address the challenges of child survival. Also, with internet-enabled database facilitates, it was possible to track the situation of maternal and child care and provide prompt service delivery (Azeez 2011; Nwaigwe 2010).

Similarly, the use of the new media in Nigeria for service provision is with regards to HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health counseling services. Under the leadership of an NGO, "Education as a Vaccine", HIV prevention education is being intensified for out-of school youth in Bayelsa, Akwa –Ibom, Cross River, Kaduna, and Gombe States through the use of social media, SMS platforms and helpline mobile phone services. The project aimed at generating disaggregated data on the provision of information, skills and services via the accessed platform of voice call, SMS and other social media platform. Expected results include improvement in HIV comprehensive knowledge and uptake of sexual and reproductive health services of at least 80,000 adolescents and young people aged 15-24 years. This will ultimately contribute to reducing their vulnerability to HIV and AIDS (Oluseyi 2010; UNICEF 2010). Within the domain of educational services, some state governments in Nigeria set up initiatives that provide numeracy, literacy and other services in education through the new media. The eLearning initiative of Rivers State involves the use of ICT and multimedia online educational services for providing contemporary education for some primary and secondary schools in the state.

Critical assessment by scholars reveals that the reality is far from the rhetoric. In many parts of the country, the scope and penetration of these interventions are still limited. Moreover, there are many challenges in service delivery for child survival that are beyond the deployment of new media. UNICEF (2008) estimates that the child and infant mortality rate stands at 86 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality rate of 191 per 1,000 live births. In many parts of the country, children are malnourished with protein-energy malnutrition described as a 'silent emergency' due to food insecurity and poverty, among other facts. One-third of all children under five years old are either stunted, underweight or wasted. More than 73,000 children are born with HIV each year, yet access to antiretroviral therapy is still low. Only one third of all schools have access to safe water. Sanitation coverage averages 70% in urban areas and 30% in rural areas. Diarrhea is responsible for 16% of child deaths every year. Nearly 80% of children do not benefit from pre-primary education while violence against children in school contributes to school absenteeism. Therefore, the extent to which the new media can address these challenges is in doubt without integrating with other methods of mass mobilization and strategic engagement. From a theory of behavior and social change, the integration and use of multiple channels and approaches result in better social outcomes (Adebayo 2017; Mefalopulos 2008; Maibach, Abrams & Marosits 2007).

NEW MEDIA AND PROTECTION RIGHTS

A number of child rights articles emphasize the need for the protection of children. These include protection from sexual exploitation, trafficking and pornography. Underlying the principle of protection is the notion of the evolving capacity of children. According to Article 5 of the CRC "State parties shall facilitate the enjoyment of rights in a manner consistent with the emerging capacity of the child". This concept has been recognized as critical to the balanced perspective embodied in the instrument. Lansdown (2005) argues that the need for balance with the imperative of their protection in accordance with their age and maturity. Most human rights experts agree on the principle, hence the notion of designing interventions that are age-appropriate and content-specific (Adebayo 2017; Beer et al. 2006; Jonsson 2003).

Literature shows that the new media is being used to contribute to the protection agenda. The initiative on service provision cited earlier encapsulates the provision of birth registration which is considered as a fundamental element of protection. Ensuring that each child has a birth certificate is one of the components of child protection. In addition, many development agencies and NGOs in Nigeria are running social media and hotline projects that provide care and support for children and women who are victims or survivors of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Azeez (2011); Nwaigwe (2010); Sesan (2005) reports that the National Information Society Campaigns organized in various parts of the country from 2003 to 2005 contributed to the empowerment and protection rights of young people. The campaigns involved the use of ICT for Development with special attention to youths in rural areas.

Empirical evidence suggests that this is a major challenging area. Longe et al. (2008) discovered an 'alarming trend' on the exposure of children (as young as 7-12 years) to internet pornography, an age band known to be least averse to taking steps to reduce its effect on them because of their impressionistic minds. An earlier study by Longe & Longe (2005) estimates that close to 10 million Nigerians visit pornographic sites a week: 40% focusing on sex sites and 60% distributed among searches such as academic, entertainment, migration and sports. With a high percentage of youth and children users, it is argued that this age group may be excessively exposed to internet pornography. There are reports of 'sexting' (sending sex-related images) instead of, or in addition to, texting. This demonstrates that access to and use of new media may in fact be contrary to some elements of the child rights agenda, especially the concept of the emerging capacity of children. Via the new media, children and young people are exposed to materials that negate the spirit and the letter of some child rights principles. Although the ramification of this challenge in Nigeria is yet to be fully understood, it is certain that there is a need for more child protection measures in a digital age.

From the foregoing review, it is evident that the new media is critical in youth mobilization and the promotion of the child rights agenda in the country, but there are some challenges in the county. In addition to some of the specific issues mentioned above, this study identified four cross-cutting challenges. First, child rights issues are complex and span multiple needs and manifold services. Many of the issues and problems facing children, especially in terms of rights violation, are entrenched and deep-seated within norms and culture requiring structural and systemic changes. Violation of children's rights poses serious challenges for society and requires strategic and engagement across social, [political, economic and institutional levels. We need 'new media plus' intervention to achieve success in this area.

Second, while the new media affords the opportunity for the promotion of participation and protection right, it also manifests some dysfunctional effects in terms of exposing children and young people to information that may be potentially harmful to their holistic development. As already noted, the new media has heralded a new culture of cyber-crimes that go against child rights. It is widely argued that the proliferation of computer technology and the internet has made the job of predators against the child easier, as children have become targets of addition, there are concerns among psychologists and educators about the harmful impact of some aspects of the new media (especially excessive use for entrainment) on the cognitive, physical and social development of the children (Adebayo 2017). This implies that the effect of new media on child rights needs to be continuously studied.

Third, the issue of inadequate programme guidance around new media uses for, and with, young people. In view of the numerous 'unknowns' in the programming process, many child rights agencies are grappling with how to design and implement result-based interventions through new media for and with children on different rights issues. This programming imperative requires more attention by academics and development professionals.

Fourth, the issue of limited documentation on 'what works in new media programming and child rights promotion. Documentation of evidence-based case studies and lessons learned is a major area of challenge in communication for development. Currently, there is a dearth of empirical documentation on the application of new media for promoting human rights. Some of the programme documents from development agencies do not show trends and impact measurement.

THE FALLOUT OF THE NEW MEDIA AND INSECURITY CHALLENGES.

Nsude and Onwe, (2017) opined that global insecurity has been on the rise since the terrorists' strategic surprise on September 11, 2001, on the twin trade tower of the World Trade Center in the United States of America. Similarly, African countries are not spared from terrorist attacks which have led to the death of over a dozen of thousand of persons and displacement many yearly.

Nigeria is not equally spared from the scourged of terrorism, as Nsude & Onwe, (2017) rightly puts that: "It is not a fallacy of hasty generalization to state that insecurity is one of the major factor bedeviling development in Nigeria" (p. 997). Report has it that between 1999-2005, Nigeria witnessed over ninety (90) violent religious conflicts of varying degrees and magnitude. Furthermore, it was revealed that Boko haram insurgency led to the killing of many via suicide bombings, studies show that one of Boko haram leader especially Abu Qaza uses YouTube and Facebook often to disseminate information to the public domain (Nsude & Onwe, 2017, p. 997).

Similarly, the dreaded Abubakar Shekuar is notorious for coming online via the new media to claim responsibility for any attack and beheading of his captured individuals to the public domain as well as threatening the federal government, what an aberration. In view of this, one can posit that the terrorist groups use dedicated websites and pages to carry out their propaganda, recruitment exercise, organization, training and significant fundraising through cybercrimes.

The following are the fallout of the new media and insecurity in Nigeria: (a) Lekki Toll-gate massacre (b) Jail break-in Owerri prison, Imo state on the 5th of April, 2021, (c) Bauchi jailbreak on the 7th of September, 2010 (d) Jailbreak in Benin on the 19th of October, 2020, (e) looting of covid-19 palliative warehouses across the country, (f) End SARs protest nationwide of 2021, (g) Fuel- subsidy removal protest of 2014.

CYBER CRIMINALITY AND TERRORISTS NEW MEDIA ACTIVITIES IN NIGERIA.

Cyber-crime is a criminal offense committed using the internet or another computer network as a component of the crime. Cyber-crime, therefore, are offenses that are committed against an individual or a group of individuals, or organization with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm to the victim directly or indirectly using modern telecommunication networks such as the internets and mobile gadgets (Adegoke & Aderoju, 2017; Okeshola & Adetola, 2013).

Strategies used in committing cybercrime and technology misuse include Identity theft, malware, spam, cyber-stalking, child pornography, carding, eavesdropping, hacking and cracking, phishing and spoofing, social engineering, cloning, salami slicing, shoulder surfing or piggybacking, vishing, dumpster diving, denial of service (DoS), software privacy, and internet relay chat (IRC). Most of the technologically sophisticated cyber-crimes are usually committed using one or more of these aforementioned methodologies. The resultant effect of these activities brings about loss of information integrity or authenticity, loss of confidentiality and loss of availability of services associated with the use of a computer, telecommunication gadgets or facilities and ICTs programming (Okeshola & Adetola, 2013, p. 309).

Nsude and Onwe (2017) cited Asemah and Edegoh, (2013) in an empirical work captioned: "An appraisal of social media and insecurity in Nigeria", the scholars opined that in a sample population of 400 respondents their findings showed that: social media has caused insecurity in the country due to the fact that it is uncensored against religious dogma and sexual fantasies, that new media has led to a greater percentage of privacy hack; that the new media is difficult to control, on the other hand, it controls the user (spirit) due to the absence of law guiding the cyberspace and finally, that Facebook causes more insecurity than another social network.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The theoretical perspective used in this study are: (a) Uses and Gratification Theory (UGT) and (b) Technological determinism theory (TDT).

(a) Uses and Gratification Theory (UGT)

This theory is credited to the scholars like Elihu Katz, Jay Blumer and Gurevitch Michael in 1974. The theory focuses on what people do with media rather than what the media do to people. The basic assumption of this theory is that people influence the effects of media have on them. Secondly, this theory assumes that members of the audience are neither passive but have an active role they play in interpreting and integrating new media into their lives (Uji, 2015, p. 30). According to Asemah (2011), the theory emphasizes motives and the self-perceived wants of target members. Therefore, when applying this theory to the study, it is believed that internet users purposively chose the new media to serve their need for involvement and awareness about governance and insecurity issues in the country. Hence, the utility needed here is the level of mobilization in the governance of which the new media is employed especially by them to gratify their needs.

(b) Technological Determinism Theory (TDT)

Technological determinism theory was propounded by Marshall McLuhan. The theory posits that the new media technologies shape how individuals in a society think, feel, act and how the society operates we move from one technology age to another (Nsude & Onwe, 2017). The basic assumption of this theory is that changes in communication channels largely defines the course of human history; as attention to the strength of communication technologies aid in fostering human interactions.

The technological determinism theory (TST) is of the assumption that the wider dimension of the information craze in society is a result of the information explosion fostered by information and communication technologies. The theory further believes that the social, economic, historical, political and cultural changes occurring in human society at present could be linked to the intervention and development of ICTs (Nsude & Onwe, 2017, p. 995).

Regrettably, this theory had been criticized by several scholars. For instance, Baran, (1999) in Nsude and Onwe, (2017) opined that McLuhan’s assumption lacked empirical support now than ever; as his ideas have succinctly become the forefront of cultural discussion surrounding the new media, and the social media can fulfill his optimistic vision of an involved global village.

Relating this theory to the study, one can state herein that the relevance of technological determinism theory is its recent breakthrough in ICTs has greatly enhanced human communication geared toward influencing social change.

DATA ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Socio-Demographic Information

Table 1: Sex of Respondents

Sex	No. of Response	Percentage
Male	43	35.9%
Female	77	64.1%
Total	120	100%

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in table 1 above of the sex distribution of respondents 35.9% of the population constitutes male while 64.1% were female.

Table 2: Age of the Respondents

Age (yrs)	No. of Response	Percentage
18 – 23	53	44.1%
24 – 29	40	33.3%
30 – 35	20	16.7%
36 – 41	7	5.9%
Total	120	100%

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in table 2 above of the age distribution of respondents 44.1% constitute 18 – 23 years of age, 33.3% of the respondents are within 24 – 29 years of age, 16.7% of them constitute 30 – 35 years of age, while 5.9% of them are between the age bracket of 36- 41 years.

Table 3: Religious Status of Respondents

Qualification	No. of Response	Percentage
Christians	85	70.9%
Muslims	31	25.8%
African Tradition	4	3.3%
Total	120	100%

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in table 3 above of the religious distribution of respondents 70.9% are of the Christian faith, 25.8% of the respondents were Muslims while 3.3% constitute the African traditional religious worshippers.

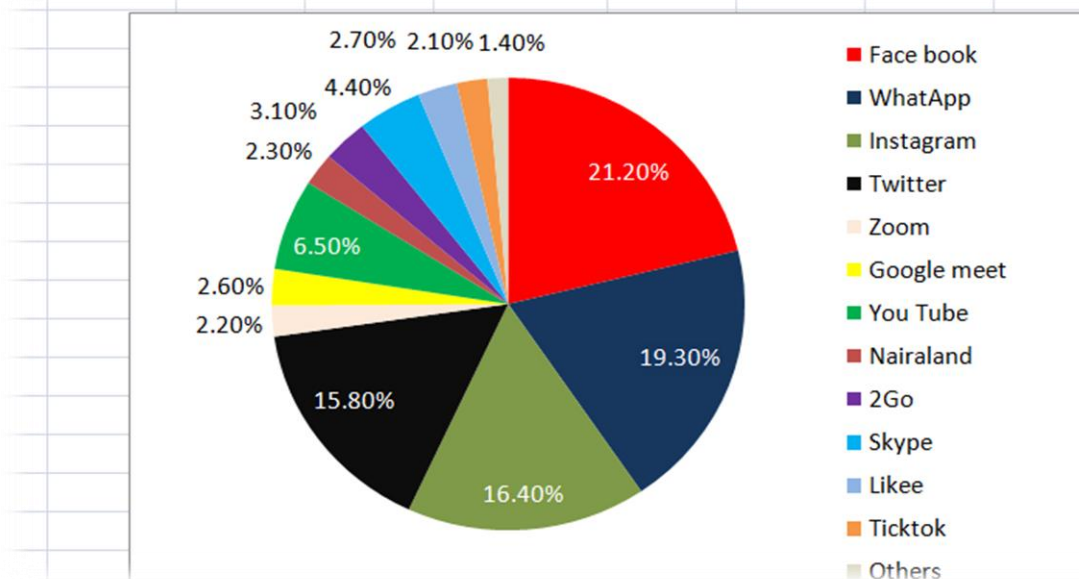
Table 4: Educational Status of Respondents

Qualification	No. of Response	Percentage
B.SC In-view	77	64.1%
MSc	31	25.9%
PhD	12	10%
Total	120	100%

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in table 4 above of the educational status of respondents, 64.1% constitute those with B.SC, 25.9% of them constitute those with MSc In-view, 12.5%, while 10% of them constitute those with Ph.D.

Figure 1: Types of New Media used (Percentage Values %)



Source: *Field work 2021*

The pie-chart above represents the types of new media commonly used by respondents, 21.20% of the respondents use Facebook, while WhatsApp is used by 19.30% of the respondents, Instagram is used by 16.40% of the respondents, Twitter has 15.80% of the respondents, Zoom Conference Call has 2.20% of the respondents, Google-meet App has 2.60% respondents, YouTube has 6.50% respondents, Naira-land has 2.30% respondents, 2Go has 3.10% respondents, Skype has 4.40% respondents, Likee has 2.70% respondents, respondents that use Ticktok constitutes 2.10% while, 1.40% of the respondents ticked others. This buttresses the assertion of Asemah and Edegoh, (2013) which posits that: "Facebook causes more insecurity than another social network". In some cases, most respondents use more than one new media application.

Table 5: Degree of connection to new media

Degree of Connection	No. of Response	Percentage
Always	86	71.7%
Moderate	29	24.1%
Rarely	5	4.1%
Total	120	100%

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in table 5 above of the degree of connection to new media, 71.7% of the respondents said they always connect to the new media, 24.1% of them responded moderate, while, 4.1% of them responded rarely. This buttresses the findings of Akikibofori, (2020, p. 94) which asserts that communications and media changed from oral, to write, to print media and now new media in the antecedent eras of modernity.

Table 6: Is there any relationship between new media and youth mobilization?

Response	No. of Response	Percentage
Yes	96	80%
Not really	20	16.7%
No	4	3.3%
Total	120	100%

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in table 6 above, of the new media and youth mobilization, 80% of them responded Yes, that there is a significant relationship between the new media and youth mobilization, 16.7% responded Not really, while 3.3% of them responded No. This buttresses the findings of Nsude & Onwe (2017, p. 995); Uji (2015, p.32); Olley & Ekharrafo (2013, p.46) and Aristotle (2012, p. 98) assertions that the new media is a vehicle for youth mobilization. Similarly, political office holders should be conscious of the capacity of those who galvanized support online for them to emerge to political office, as the new media is a tool for freedom and emancipation.

Table 7: Is there any relationship between new media and insecurity in Nigeria?

Response	No. of Response	Percentage
Yes	99	82.5%
No	21	17.5%
Total	120	100%

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in table 7 above, of the relationship between new media and youth mobilization, 82.5% of them responded Yes, while 17.5% of them responded No. This supports the findings of Abdul & Afzal, (2017, p. 8); Uji, (2015, p.33) and Abdullahi, (2012, 55) assertion that the Arab Spring uprising which led to over 61,000 deaths in the middle east emanated from the activities of the new media. Moreover, many people get involved online in socio-political issues, as well as a demonstration to influence government decisions. As was the case of #End Sars protests of 2021, which led to the Lekki toll gate massacre; #Bring Back Our Girls online campaign in 2014; and occupy Nigeria movement in 2012.

Table 8: What are the forms of insecurity that arise from the activities of the new media?

Response	No. of Response	Percentage
Lekki - toll gate Massacre	25	20.9%
Fuel subsidy Protest	9	7.5%
Imo Jail break	4	3.3%
End Sars Protest	33	27.5%
Banditry and Unknown gun men attack (UGM)	21	17.5%
Warehouse Palliative looting	10	8.3%
Fulani herdsmen attack	2	1.7%
Oduduwa and Biafra succession threat	16	13.3%
Total	120%	100%

Source: *Field Survey 2021*

From the data presented in table 8 above, of the form of insecurity arising from the activities of the new media, 20.0% of the respondents went for Lekki-toll gate massacre, 7.5% went for fuel subsidy protest, Imo jail-break, 3.3%, End Sars protest, 27.5%, banditry and unknown gun-men attack (UGM), 17.5%, warehouse palliative looting, 8.3%, Fulani herdsmen attack, 1.7% and Oduduwa and Biafra succession threat, 13.3% respondents. This buttress the findings of Akikibofori, (2020, p.67); Abdul & Afzal, (2017, p. 8); Nsude & Onwe, (2017, p.995); Uji, (2015, p.33) and Olley & Ekharrafo, (2013, p.45) assertion that anti-government protest, civil unrest, uprising and armed rebellion emanates from the activities of new media and youth mobilization thereby fueling insecurity. In addition, many people get involved online in socio-political issues, as well as a demonstration to influence government decisions, effecting changes against corruption and bad governance this was evident in the Arab spring which spread through the middle-east in the first and second waves of the uprising, notably this witnessed the removal and disposal of many regimes in countries like Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Tunisia, Syria and Bahrain. Furthermore, this assertion was evidenced in the #END SARs protest in 2021, covid- 19 palliative warehouse looting, #Buhari go home and make health sector workers protest in Nigerian house, the UK on the 5th of April, 2021 and current #Buhari end insecurity or resign protest at Abuja mosque on the 7th of May, 2021.

CONCLUSION

The new media is an indispensable channel for target groups and is very useful in the mobilization of youths to be digitalized and enhance maximum social interactions in the post covidic era. Notably, the study revealed that the new media is an agent of social change, national development as well as organizational development, this buttresses the assumptions of technological determinism theory which posits that technology can drive human actions and effect

societal change (Akikibofori, 2020; Nsude & Onwe, 2017; Uji, 2015; Olley & Ekharrafo, 2013; Aristotle, 2012; Adeboye, 2011; Rosen, 2011; Ikpe & Olise, 2010; and Lievorou & Livingstone, 2006). The inherent features of decentralization and democratization of information technology that supports multi-directional information flow can be easily maximized. With the advent of new media, scholars believe it is possible to promote direct and informed mobilization of rights advocacy and sensitization on issues of concern. The new media also facilitates collaborative and dynamic communication models that are embodied in the technologies, although it has been argued that people are the epicenter of development, not technology. Moreover, the expectation of digital utopians that the internet would drive social and political change needs to be balanced with reality. As Rosen observed: That Twitter and Facebook are indeed useful tools, but they are not tools for revolution (Adebayo 2017, p. 63; Rosen 2011, p.1). Furthermore, experts believe that when the government does not pay attention to the concerns of its citizens the new media can be used as a channel of revolution as is the case of secessionists' plan in the middle-belt, south-east and south-west region of the country.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Following the findings and conclusion reached in the study, the following recommendations have been proffered:

- i) The need for good leadership that addresses the issue of the mass by paying adequate attention to the yearnings of the people.
- ii) The need for awareness campaigns on the dangers of the negative effects of the new media by various arms of government, the masses for the societal good as there can be no development amidst insecurity.
- iii) Government should as a matter of urgency sponsor criminologists and relevant law enforcement agencies abroad to be equipped with new technological skills to combat the negative effects of the new media.
- iv) The study recommends the need for more research around a better understanding of the functions and dysfunctions of the new media promoting the human rights agenda. Since the new media is constantly evolving, more investigation and analysis on its use for media mobilization including agenda setting, issue framing, grassroots mobilization and various forms of high-level advocacy especially policy, private sector, donor and social advocacy is essential.
- v) Government should be transparent at all times in the manner of appointment of service chiefs and matters that concerns the country and not making a particular ethnic group lord over others as this will always attract resistance of the masses through the new media challenges.
- vi) The study recommends government of Nigeria ensure the freedom of the press and new media at all times so far it does not threaten the country's security.
- vii) The federal government of Nigeria should not be sad when the truth is said about the activities of governance, for its abnormal to be normal in an abnormal society where the government is insincere.
- viii) It is crucial to mobilize the synergy between the old print media and the new media in child rights promotion. While the new media is more interactive and can promote a multi-dimensional flow of information, mainstream mass media are critical to influencing the public and political agenda. Hence, the reason for the development and implementation of a strategy that integrates the new media into other elements of child rights promotion is crucial (Adebayo, 2017). The new media alone cannot address the integral dimension of rights violations in the country from 2015- 2021. Therefore, both mainstream and new media are critical in achieving the child rights and human rights agenda in the country.

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